

1904.

QUEENSLAND.

REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN ON AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL STATISTICS FOR 1903.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command.

TO THE UNDER SECRETARY, THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

SIR,—I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Agricultural and Pastoral Statistics of the State for the past year, which I have endeavoured to make as comprehensive and complete as possible. The information with respect to the more important interests has already been published in pamphlet form, and issued to such members of the public as might be considered especially interested therein.

LIVE STOCK.

The year 1904 witnessed the break-up of the prolonged drought that wrought such havoc among the flocks and herds of the State, yet the rain did not come soon enough to prevent serious losses during the earlier months of the year. The exceptionally favourable lambings which followed the welcome change in the season proved more than sufficient to counterbalance these losses with respect to sheep, and an appreciable increase in their numbers is recorded; but as cattle do not so quickly respond to improved conditions, and are less prolific than their comrades of the pasture, their subsequent increase was insufficient to make up for the earlier loss.

It must, however, be remembered that besides losses from drought the demand for local consumption has had to be met; and not for that only, but in addition a considerable number of cattle were disposed of, either dead or alive, to meet the requirements of foreign markets. There were, as a consequence, fewer horned cattle in the State at the end than at the commencement of the year. In April I published an advance estimate of the number of cattle and sheep believed to be in Queensland on the 1st January. This rough approximation has been fully confirmed as regards cattle, but has proved to have been slightly in excess with respect to sheep. This overestimate was due to the fact that in several instances sheep in 1902, not returned as under agistment, but apparently belonging to the depasturer, and therefore expected to be collected in 1903, proved on inquiry to have been on agistment only, and having been returned to their owners, were already accounted for.

With the exception of a few isolated spots where dry weather still prevails, the pastures of the State are now in a splendid condition, and large natural increases of both sheep and cattle may be confidently predicted. Actual numerical accessions of the latter will of course be kept in check by the demand for export, but if the non-breeders of the increase are thus put to profit at satisfactory prices, the necessarily reduced number at the end of the year is of less moment. Unhappily the same conditions which are so favourable for live stock prove equally beneficial for other graminivorous animals; and rabbits, as well as the various marsupials, are showing signs of rapid increase. The former are already seriously menacing the immediate future of the pastoral industry in the south-west, and unless prompt measures are taken to stem the inroad, the gravest consequences may result. These rodents first became numerous in the southern States, from whence a number of years ago they spread into Queensland, but the invasion was checked for a time by wire fencing, and the drought materially assisted to arrest their progress, but with the return of favourable seasons they have again made headway. In Victoria and New South Wales, where they were at first looked upon in the light in which they are still regarded here—namely, as an unmitigated nuisance—they are now becoming a source of considerable profit. In 1902 the last-named State exported rabbits and rabbit-skins to the value of £12,143, and £38,094 respectively; whilst Victoria, in the same year, exported 3,274,210 pairs of rabbits and hares, and 977,835 lb. of preserved rabbit, valued together at £173,973, besides skins valued at £63,402; making a total monetary value from this source to the two States mentioned of £287,612.

There were returned as depastured in Queensland on the 31st December, 1903, 401,984 horses, 2,481,717 cattle, and 8,392,044 sheep, the returns also included 117,553 pigs. The following table compares the numbers for the past two years :—

A.

Year.	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
1902	399,122	2,543,471	7,213,985	77,202
1903	401,984	2,481,717	8,392,044	117,553
Numerical Increase in 1903	2,862	...	1,178,059	40,351
Numerical Decrease in 1903 ... ..	...	61,754	...	...
Centesimal Increase in 1903	0·72	...	16·33	52·27
Centesimal Decrease in 1903 ... ..	...	2·43	...	...

The figures for 1903 show increases over those for 1902 of horses, 2,862; sheep, 1,178,059; and pigs, 40,351; and a decrease of cattle of 61,754. These numbers give centesimal ratios of increase of horses, 0·72; sheep, 16·33; pigs, 52·27; and of cattle a decrease of 2·43.

A comparison of the numbers of live stock in Queensland at the end of each of the last ten years is afforded by the following statement :—

A a.

SHOWING the NUMBER of HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, and PIGS, in the STATE—RETURN for TEN YEARS.

Year.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
1894	444,109	7,012,997	19,587,691	89,677
1895	468,743	6,822,401	19,856,959	100,747
1896	452,207	6,507,377	19,593,696	97,434
1897	479,280	6,089,013	17,797,883	110,855
1898	480,469	5,571,292	17,552,608	127,081
1899	479,127	5,053,836	15,226,479	139,118
1900	456,788	4,078,191	10,339,185	122,187
1901	462,119	3,772,707	10,030,971	121,641
1902	399,122	2,543,471	7,213,985	77,202
1903	401,984	2,481,717	8,392,044	117,553

The record disclosed by the third and fourth columns of this table is certainly not an inspiring one, although the last entry respecting sheep strikes a more hopeful key.

Of cattle there were 7,000,000 in the State at the commencement of the decade, which closes, however, with scarcely 2,500,000, an actual decrease of 4,531,280, and a proportional one of 65 per cent. The relative decrease in sheep during the same period has not been quite so great—namely, 57 per cent. The numbers, however, are so much greater—the decrease amounting to 11,195,647—and the value of the sheep as a producer being an annually recurring one, the loss to this branch of the pastoral industry has really been more momentous; fortunately the natural rate of increase of sheep is much greater than that of horned cattle, and for this and other causes the deficiency will probably be more rapidly made good. The opportunity may perhaps be made use of to raise sheep of a larger frame, the carcasses of which will be better suited for export even though the wool be of somewhat less value. The risk attendant on importation, not only of the voyage, but of the possibility of introducing some of the dreaded Old-world diseases, such as scab, together with the certainty of the expense of quarantine, no doubt deter many from bringing new varieties.

The centesimal ratios of increase and decrease as shown in the following table, forcibly illustrates the effects of the prolonged drought, now happily brought to a conclusion :—

A b.

Year.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
1894	3·35	4·78	4·76	31·71
1895	5·55	— 2·72	1·37	12·34
1896	— 3·53	— 4·63	— 1·33	— 3·29
1897	5·99	— 6·43	— 9·17	13·77
1898	0·25	— 8·50	— 1·38	14·64
1899	— 0·28	— 9·29	— 13·25	9·47
1900	— 4·66	— 19·31	— 32·10	— 12·17
1901	1·17	— 7·49	— 2·98	— 0·45
1902	— 13·63	— 32·58	— 28·08	— 36·53
1903	0·72	— 2·43	16·33	52·27

— Decrease.

The climate and pastures of Queensland probably afford unsurpassed opportunities for the breeding and rearing of horses, and yet but little has apparently been done to extend the operation of this section of the grazing industry. Queensland always has produced, and probably always would, without effort, produce a sufficiency of horses for her own requirements. The veriest weeds, the outcome of most promiscuous breeding, fortified by the splendid climate and pasture, appear to possess a stamina and power of endurance but little promised by their appearance, and prove equal to the needs of the drover and the stockman; whilst it would indeed be remarkable if from 500,000 horses it were impossible to secure a few stylish hackneys and carriage horses to meet the modest requirements of Queensland in this direction. Something more than this is demanded if horses are to contribute any important share to the export products of the State. It has been demonstrated beyond question that Queensland does not at present breed a sufficiency of suitable animals to maintain a continuous export of any considerable dimensions. No doubt in the past buyers for the Indian markets were frequently hypercritical, and required conditions as to size, form, and colour that the experience of the Boer war will probably tend to modify, but the fact remains that the demand for the 20,000 horses sent to Africa during 1901 and 1902 was only met with difficulty, and that although some were of a good type, a number were shipped that it would have been well for Queensland's reputation if they had never been permitted to leave.

The following table shows the number of horses imported and exported during 1903 :—

Ac.

HORSES IMPORTED DURING 1903.

—						Number.		Value.	
								£	£
<i>Seawards—</i>									
New South Wales	...	...	...	...	...	133	...	12,052	
Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	1,580	
South Australia	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	100	
United Kingdom	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	800	
Ceylon	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	150	
							153		14,682
<i>Borderwise—</i>									
New South Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	928	...	13,029
South Australia	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,519	...	20,255
Total						...	3,600	...	47,966

HORSES EXPORTED during 1903.

<i>Seawards—</i>									
New South Wales	...	...	...	...	...	98	...	5,029	
Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	200	
South Australia	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	270	
British New Guinea	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	105	
Mauritius	...	...	...	...	...	702	...	5,065	
India	...	...	...	...	...	3,120	...	32,259	
United Kingdom	...	...	...	...	...	34	...	393	
Straits Settlement	...	...	...	...	...	29	...	290	
Natal	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	100	
							4,004		43,711
<i>Borderwise—</i>									
New South Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,691	...	56,562
South Australia	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,553	...	24,202
Total						...	12,248	...	124,475

The borderwise traffic with the other States consists chiefly of drovers' outfits. The exports invariably exceed the imports, as many of those who take stock south sell their horses as well as the cattle, and return to Queensland either by rail or sea. It will be noticed that last year the trade with Africa had practically ceased, although a small amount of business was done with Mauritius, 702 horses of a value of £5,065 being shipped there—this traffic, no doubt induced by the previous African trade. The bulk of the export, as in years before the Boer war, was with India, whither 3,120 horses were despatched, of a value of £32,259. The total excess of export over import for 1903 comprised only 8,648 horses, of a value of £76,509, equal to, say, £8 17s. per head—a price that would scarcely imply animals of a quality suitable for export.

Experts are agreed that if an export trade in horses is to be developed something requires to be done, but considerable controversy is in progress how best to secure the desired end, and, whilst “doctors differ the patient dies,” action finally must necessarily be left to those immediately concerned; but, for the purpose of supplying data for a decision, it is proposed to arrange at the next annual collection of the numbers of live stock, to provide for a record, in some form not yet determined, of the number of stallions kept in this State.

That valuable animal, the mule, finds but little representation. Hardy, long-lived, and serviceable, in America it is highly valued as a farm servant, and found to give a much better return for its cost and keep than the horse.

DISTRIBUTION OF LIVE STOCK.

Full particulars as to the number of each kind of live stock depastured in each petty sessions district are furnished in Appendix Tables Nos. I. to VI.

During the years of drought the location of stock was much disturbed by the conditions obtaining with respect to travelling and agistment. By the end of 1903 matters in this respect had somewhat righted themselves, and the position disclosed in the following table, which contains a summary of those in the Appendix above referred to, may be considered as almost normal:—

A d.

Division.	Year.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
SOUTHERN {	1902	181,115	950,575	3,084,701	60,679
	1903	184,032	950,562	3,854,433	94,830
	Numerical Increase in 1903	2,917	...	769,732	34,151
	Numerical Decrease in 1903 ... ..	...	13	...	...
	Centesimal Increase in 1903	1·61	...	24·95	56·28
	Centesimal Decrease in 1903 ... ..	...	...	...	...
CENTRAL {	1902	79,780	336,405	2,307,992	5,384
	1903	79,733	302,311	2,878,189	9,348
	Numerical Increase in 1903 ... ..	...	...	570,197	3,964
	Numerical Decrease in 1903	47	34,094	...	...
	Centesimal Increase in 1903 ... ..	...	...	24·71	73·63
	Centesimal Decrease in 1903	0·06	10·13	...	...
NORTHERN {	1902	138,227	1,256,491	1,821,292	11,139
	1903	138,219	1,228,844	1,659,422	13,375
	Numerical Increase in 1903 ... ..	...	...	...	2,236
	Numerical Decrease in 1903	8	27,647	161,870	...
	Centesimal Increase in 1903 ... ..	...	...	...	20·07
	Centesimal Decrease in 1903 ... ..	...	2·20	8·89	...

HORSES.—It will be noted that the small total increase in the number of horses was confined to the Southern division of the State, where there were 2,917 more depastured in 1903 than in 1902, or a centesimal increase of 1·61.

Of the 184,032 horses in the Southern division the great bulk are depastured within 150 miles of the coast, consequently distance would offer no difficulties in the way of export. Of these 12,265 were in Toowoomba, 7,633 in Brisbane, 7,109 in Bundaberg, 7,020 in Dalby, 6,781 in Warwick, and 6,254 in Gympie. Of the 79,733 returned in the Central division 19,109 were in Rockhampton, 9,282 in Mackay, and 8,643 in Gladstone, or 46 per cent. of the whole were thus within easy reach of shipment. In the Northern division 13,829 horses were in Charters Towers, 10,378 in Bowen, 10,285 in Hughenden, and 8,499 in Cloncurry, whilst 138,219 were returned in the whole division.

CATTLE.—In the Southern division the number was practically the same in both years, whilst in the Central division a decrease of 34,094 was recorded, and in the North one of 27,647, or centesimal ratios of decline of 10·13 and 2·20 respectively.

The greatest number of cattle in any one district of the Southern division was recorded at Esk—namely, 60,792. The following districts returned 30,000 and upwards:—Gayndah, 55,303; Nanango, 46,393; Beaudesert, 44,047; Eidsvold, 39,558; Gympie, 37,645; Toowoomba, 31,926; and Bundaberg, 30,135. In the Central division, of the 302,311 cattle depastured, 90,621 were returned at Rockhampton, and 54,134 at Gladstone, or nearly one half of all cattle in the division. The Northern division depastures 1,228,844 cattle, or 50 per cent. of all in the State. Of these 236,503 were in the petty sessions district of Norman, 138,921 in Burke, 120,123 in Hughenden, 99,887 in Cloncurry, and 94,937 in Etheridge.

SHEEP.—As already referred to there was a substantial increase in sheep, an accession in number shared in by both the Southern and Central divisions. In the South the increase numbered 769,732 and in the Central, 570,197, equal to a ratio of 25 per cent. in both instances. In the North, however, there was a loss recorded of 161,870, which on the figures for 1902 was equal to a centesimal decrease of 8·89.

Forty-six per cent. of all sheep in Queensland were comprised in the Southern division. Of the 3,854,433 returned there, 636,131 were in Cunnamulla, 379,066 in Toowoomba, 344,431 in Dalby, 257,345 in Bollon, 231,830 in St. George, 224,711 in Adavale, and 220,253 in Tambo. There were 2,878,189 sheep in the Central division. Longreach returned 786,527, Muttaborra, 466,850, Barcaldine 400,010, Blackall 346,581, and Isisford 316,037. Of the 1,659,422 sheep in the Northern division, 92 per cent. were returned from three districts—namely: Winton, 686,645; Hughenden, 580,283; and Cloncurry, 254,156.

Pigs, which numbered 77,202 in 1902, increased to 117,553 in 1903, an actual increase of 40,351 and a relative one of 52 per cent., were chiefly confined to the Southern division, where 94,830, or 81 per cent. of the total number, were kept. Although 34,151 of the total increase was recorded in the South, both the Central and the Northern divisions showed very substantial relative additions to the numbers of 1902.

The hog finds representation to a greater or less extent in nearly every district in the State, both at Somerset in the North as well as at Thargomindah, Windorah, and Camooweal in the far West. Its

principal habitat, however, is in the coastal districts, and as already pointed out, chiefly in the Southern division, although at Rockhampton, Townsville, Mackay, Ingham, Ayr, and Charters Towers, the numbers returned were represented in four figures. The greatest number in one district was 8,658 in Toowoomba, followed by Gatton with 6,207, and Beaudesert 4,994. The districts of Allora and Warwick, which are contiguous, together contributed 7,273, Bundaberg returned 4,198, whilst the allied districts of Dugandan, Laidley, Marburg, and Rosewood aggregated 15,622.

The numbers of live stock disposed of either by export, dead or alive, or by consumption within the State, has of necessity an important bearing on the number returned at the end of the year. The net export of cattle and sheep alive during each of the last ten years is shown in the following table :—

A e.

Year.	Horned Cattle.		Sheep.	
	Inwards.	Outwards.	Inwards.	Outwards.
1894	2,286	135,858	156,596	430,646
1895	5,590	80,620	186,007	295,032
1896	10,127	272,622	94,620	899,720
1897	13,197	176,329	289,768	1,114,270
1898	13,867	194,648	158,843	641,177
1899	16,972	205,243	200,523	463,276
1900	9,370	69,979	103,967	487,934
1901	32,439	74,066	297,628	277,738
1902	11,593	35,299	193,243	140,030
1903	56,175	78,988	272,948	277,725

From the second and third columns of this table it will be seen how in the recent past the herds of Queensland have, notwithstanding the devastation due to drought, been drawn upon to supply beef for our southern neighbours, but, whilst the excess of export has remained unbroken during the decade, the decreasing numbers available have inevitably resulted, during the past four years, in a greatly diminishing excess. As regards sheep, in both 1901 and 1902 there were slight excesses of imports, although in all of the other eight years the exports have been the greater, in several years exceedingly so ; indeed, during the ten years Queensland has sent away 3,073,405 sheep in excess of imports. After the drought of the early eighties, which was not so generally diffused throughout Australia, Queensland was able to replenish her flocks with breeding ewes from the southern States, particularly New South Wales. Now, unfortunately, this is no longer possible, as our neighbour has been equally unfortunate with ourselves, having lost during 1902-3 about two-fifths of her sheep—namely, some 17,000,000 out of 42,000,000.

Upwards of three-fourths of the cattle are held by 4 per cent. of the total number of owners in herds of not less than 300 in number. The great majority of owners consist of persons possessing a few head of milkers. The following table furnishes, for a few of the more important cattle districts, and for the whole State, the number of owners and of cattle held by them grouped in accordance with the size of each herd :—

A f.

SIZES OF HERDS OF CATTLE.

Petty Sessions District.	Owners.	1 to 100.	Owners.	101 to 300.	Owners.	301 and upwards.	Total Owners.	Total Cattle.
Bowen	148	2,876	18	3,228	31	63,138	197	69,242
Burke	10	348	3	693	19	137,880	32	138,921
Charters Towers ...	272	4,756	11	1,902	28	65,004	311	71,662
Cloncurry	23	805	8	1,749	12	97,333	43	99,887
Etheridge	43	1,386	12	2,183	21	91,368	76	94,937
Hughenden	88	2,427	14	2,674	23	115,022	125	120,123
Norman	11	241	4	905	25	235,357	40	236,503
All other Districts ...	21,029	361,670	972	170,285	785	1,118,487	22,786	1,650,442
Totals	21,624	374,509	1,042	183,619	944	1,923,589	23,610	2,481,717

Necessarily where stock are depastured in a different district on a separate and distinct holding, although the property of the same owner, the latter has been duplicated. Of the 23,610 owners, 21,624, or 92 per cent., held 374,509, or 15 per cent. only of the cattle in herds of less than 100 head.

There were 1,042 owners of 183,619 cattle, or ratios of 4 and 7 per cent. respectively, in herds exceeding 100 but of less than 300 head, whilst 78 per cent. of all cattle, or 1,923,589 in number, were held by 944 owners in herds of more than 300 head.

The seven districts shown individually in the foregoing table depastured 831,275 cattle, of these 805,102, or 97 per cent., were held by 159 owners in herds exceeding 300 in numbers. Nearly all the owners of a few head were located in districts not strictly pastoral.

Sheep naturally do not lend themselves to so wide a diffusion of ownership as cattle. The 8,392,044 returned as in Queensland for 1903 were in the ownership of less than 2,000 persons. The following table shows the distribution of sheep in a similar way but in a different grouping to that already adopted for cattle :—

A g.
SIZES OF FLOCKS OF SHEEP.

Petty Sessions Districts.	50 and under.		51 to 1,000.		1,001 to 5,000.		5,001 to 20,000.		20,001 and upwards.		Totals.	
	Owners.	Sheep.	Owners.	Sheep.	Owners.	Sheep.	Owners.	Sheep.	Owners.	Sheep.	Total Owners.	Total Sheep.
Adavale	2	50	1	650	2	4,598	3	29,313	3	190,100	11	224,711
Aramac	1	9	4	1,634	11	30,795	4	59,475	1	36,300	21	128,213
Augathella	2	20	2	300	4	11,314	1	6,000	2	104,282	11	121,916
Barcaldine	5	47	15	3,609	13	33,142	8	79,888	6	283,324	47	400,010
Blackall	4	67	4	310	13	31,923	7	65,940	6	248,341	34	346,581
Bollon	3	43	4	1,758	10	33,257	7	94,092	5	128,195	29	257,345
Boulia	3	7	3	697	...	...	2	32,600	1	76,833	9	110,137
Charleville	9	151	8	3,580	5	15,542	5	48,912	3	98,910	30	167,095
Clermont	18	209	12	3,313	3	5,156	2	28,720	5	185,522	40	222,920
Cloncurry	3	41	1	119	1	3,002	2	19,406	5	231,588	12	254,156
Cunnamulla	4	71	19	11,386	53	148,935	11	104,368	7	371,371	94	636,131
Dalby	15	351	91	37,985	39	80,994	7	86,244	4	138,857	156	344,431
Goondiwindi	6	153	10	4,105	8	23,592	4	32,248	3	93,542	31	153,640
Hughenden	9	246	10	5,252	18	46,451	26	244,160	6	284,174	69	580,283
Isisford	5	104	6	2,236	3	5,426	3	30,580	5	277,691	22	316,037
Longreach	5	32	13	6,475	24	69,596	15	160,087	8	550,337	65	786,527
Muttaburra	1	20	5	2,355	14	58,984	15	145,797	7	259,694	42	466,850
Roma	18	371	19	7,626	7	17,933	5	62,661	2	58,820	51	147,411
St. George	4	120	9	2,810	17	50,915	4	38,499	4	139,486	38	231,830
Surat	3	49	11	6,170	16	35,991	3	33,195	2	71,904	35	147,309
Tambo	3	120	4	2,643	2	5,239	8	76,828	3	135,423	20	220,253
Thargomindah	4	65	...	...	1	1,200	6	67,239	2	56,543	13	125,047
Toowoomba	32	686	98	36,629	35	76,177	8	87,221	4	178,353	177	379,066
Warwick	15	390	58	23,218	9	23,066	3	41,262	1	26,242	86	114,178
Windorah	3	97	9	4,553	8	21,442	4	40,150	3	120,683	27	186,925
Winton	7	169	6	1,017	3	12,140	12	107,094	10	566,234	38	686,645
All other Districts	361	6,739	258	64,451	57	119,649	23	261,060	7	184,498	706	636,397
Totals	545	10,418	680	234,881	376	966,459	198	2,083,039	115	5,097,247	1,914	8,392,044

The necessity for replenishing the depleted flocks on the large holdings has, during 1903, resulted in an increased number of flocks of over 20,000 sheep, and, of course, a corresponding diminution in the numbers of owners returned under the smaller groups, the prices offered for animals for restocking tempting the smaller man to sell. Passing sheep held in numbers less than 1,000; whilst in 1902, 398 men held 969,360 sheep in flocks of 1,000 to 5,000; this group, in 1903, comprised 376 owners and 966,459 sheep. Owners of from 5,000 to 20,000 numbered 198 in 1903, against 223 in the previous year. Flocks in this grouping aggregating 2,083,039 sheep in the former, and 2,318,717 in the latter year, or 10,520 and 10,398 sheep to each owner, respectively. There were in 1903, 5,097,247 sheep owned in flocks exceeding 20,000; these were the property of 115 proprietors, giving to each 44,324 sheep, against 3,648,167 sheep, 91 proprietors, and 40,090 sheep average to each in 1902.

For a number of years the tendency of sheep farming has been in the direction of smaller flocks and smaller holdings, and the records of each year witnessed a reduction in the average number of sheep to each holding; and the reaction experienced in 1903, due to the special causes already referred to, cannot be accepted as any reversal of this general tendency. The following table illustrates this tendency for the past ten years :—

A h.

Year.	No. of Owners.	No. of Sheep.	Average Size of Flocks.
1894	1,584	19,587,691	12,366
1895	1,637	19,856,959	12,130
1896	1,664	19,593,696	11,775
1897	1,793	17,797,883	9,926
1898	1,835	17,552,608	9,565
1899	1,897	15,226,479	8,027
1900	1,950	10,339,185	5,302
1901	2,018	10,030,971	4,970
1902	2,052	7,213,985	3,516
1903	1,914	8,392,044	4,385

In 1894 the average number of sheep to each owner was 12,000, a proportion reduced to one-third in eight to nine years.

Climatic conditions have such an important bearing on the stock-carrying capacity of pasture land, the possibilities of a good or bad year being so out of proportion, that any deductions from the numbers

grazed at any one time are liable to grave error. The following table shows the number of live stock to the area and the population which were depastured in Queensland in 1903 :—

A i.

IN CONVERTING HORSES AND CATTLE TO TERMS OF SHEEP, TEN HEAD OF SHEEP ARE TAKEN AS EQUAL TO ONE HORSE OR HEAD OF CATTLE.

	Southern Division.		Central Division.		Northern Division.		State.	
	Square Mile.	Per Capita of Population.	Square Mile.	Per Capita of Population.	Square Mile.	Per Capita of Population.	Square Mile.	Per Capita of Population.
Horses	0·88	0·55	0·54	1·22	0·45	1·22	0·60	0·78
Cattle	4·54	2·82	2·03	4·62	3·96	10·82	3·71	4·81
Sheep	18·41	11·45	19·36	43·96	5·34	14·61	12·55	16·28
All kinds in terms of Sheep	72·61	45·17	45·06	102·33	49·37	135·01	55·69	72·21
Pigs ... ..	...	0·28	...	0·14	...	0·12	...	0·23
All kinds, including pigs, in terms of Sheep ... ..	...	45·45	...	102·47	...	135·13	...	72·44

The better to measure the true relations to the pasture and the population which the aggregate of the various kinds of live stock represent, by bringing the larger animals more fairly into comparison with the smaller, information is also furnished whereby they have been reduced to a common factor, sheep being accepted as the denominator on the basis of 10 to 1.

For the whole State there were 56 sheep or their equivalent to each square mile, 72 for each inhabitant. In the South the like proportion were 73 and 45; in the Central, 45 and 102; and in the North, 49 and 135.

In considering the question of a too small increase, or even of an actual decrease of live stock, manifestly the question of the number utilised is an important one; especially is this the case with regard to cattle and sheep, forming as they do such important items of export. Upwards of 250,000 cattle and nearly 500,000 sheep were put to profit in 1903, as shown in the following table. This was 90,000 fewer cattle and 230,000 fewer sheep than were utilised in the previous year :—

A j.

	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.
	Cattle.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Sheep.
Preserved, frozen, and boiled down	185,842	125,414	309,005	115,426
Exported, less number imported	23,706	22,813	*	4,777
Estimated number killed for food for home consumption	181,135	149,252	463,344	368,166
			772,349	
Imported in excess of exported ... ..	...	...	53,213	...
Totals put to profit	390,683	297,479	719,136	488,669

* Imports exceeded exports.

Of the 297,479 cattle either exported or consumed within the State during 1903, 22,813 were exports alive in excess of imports; this is approximately the same as in 1902; 125,414 were preserved or frozen, chiefly for export. This was 60,000 fewer than were so treated in 1902, whilst 149,252 were estimated as killed for home consumption, a diminution on the previous year's figures of 32,000, only partly due to a decreased beef consumption, as the average weight of cattle slaughtered was greater in 1903 than in 1902. Of the 488,669 sheep put to profit during the year, the excess of exports alive numbered 4,777, whilst in 1902 there was an excess of imports of 53,213. Only 115,426 were frozen or preserved for export against 309,005 in the preceding year, a decrease of 193,579. For home consumption 368,466 sheep were killed last year, instead of 463,344 in 1902, largely due to the greatly increased weight of sheep in the former year, a circumstance also affecting in some measure the number killed for export. There are also a considerable number of both cattle and sheep killed by farmers on their own premises, ostensibly for their own use, but frequently in part disposed of. What number of them are included in the inspectors' returns it is impossible to determine, so that they are not included in this estimate.

There were during 1903 fifteen establishments engaged in the slaughter and conversion of live stock into an exportable product. These gave employment to a number of hands, and have invested in them a large amount of capital; fuller particulars are contained in the following table :—

A k.

No. of Establishments.	Kind of Establishments.	No. of Hands Employed.	Value of Machinery and Plant.	Value of Land and Premises.	Value of Output.
5	Bacon Curing... ..	93	£ 17,433	£ 42,520	£ 143,056
...	Boiling Down ... ..	...	...	...	...
10	Meat Preserving	906	263,949	286,950	1,471,758
15		999	281,382	329,470	1,614,814
3	Inoperative during 1903, representing ...	...	61,999	41,163	...

Particulars as to the work done and the produce prepared for market at these manufactories are given in detail at Tables VII. and VIII. in the Appendix.

CATTLE.—Of the 125,414 cattle which in 1903 were slaughtered at factories for preservation for food or for conversion into tallow 108,343 head were utilised for freezing, 16,149 for preserving and the production of extract, and 922 only went to the boiler-down. Cattle were far too valuable last year to be killed for tallow only, and beasts of the waster type, which is the class that mostly reaches the boiler's pot, have been largely eliminated by the drought. These numbers were considerably below those similarly dealt with in 1902, when 132,166 were frozen, 51,205 preserved, and 2,471 boiled down. In 1903 the quantity of beef frozen was 66,483,364 lb., against 85,743,229 lb. in 1902, averages to each beast slaughtered of 614 lb. and 649 lb. respectively, so that apparently a better class of beast was dealt with in 1902 than in 1903. The quantity of beef preserved (fresh) and salted in 1903 was 9,847,036 lb., and in 1902 23,023,137 aggregates giving averages of 610 lb. and 450 lb. to each head of cattle, besides which 100,720 lb. of extract were made in the former and 192,781 in the latter year. The output of tallow for 1903 was 3,661 tons; this was the product of preserving establishments, and includes fat obtained from sheep.

SHEEP.—There was not much difference in the numbers slaughtered for freezing during each of the past two years—namely, 117,729 in 1902, and 102,007 in 1903. The weight of mutton obtained was 5,225,727 lb. in 1902, and 4,906,991 lb. in 1903, or averages of 44 lb. and 48 lb. respectively to each sheep. As only 13,309 were treated last year for preserving, against 189,025 in 1902, it would appear that it was considered more profitable to slaughter as few as possible, and these the heavier grade sheep, so as to retain the flocks of the merino sheep for wool production. The quantity of mutton preserved was 498,416 lb. in 1903, and 5,374,696 in the previous year; weights giving averages of 37 lb. and 28 lb. respectively per head.

HOGS.—Factory-produced bacon, &c., comprises about three-fourths of the total hog products of the State. As the quantity made by farmers is so considerable, the total production is dealt with, and full information is supplied in the following table:—

A 1.

Petty Sessions District.	Pigs Slaughtered.	Fresh Pork.	Salt Pork.	Bacon and Hams.
	Number.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Allora	421	1,310	27,197	22,852
Beaudesert	342	80	100	46,561
Bowen	264	6,744	8,710	1,150
Brisbane	37,330	176,410	246,129	2,999,939
Bundaberg	536	12,230	4,290	40,855
Cardwell	215	22,210	...	...
Childers	266	4,010	4,220	16,623
Crow's Nest	351	416	19,649	24,412
Dalby	215	2,190	21	20,942
Dugandan	223	874	12,047	18,437
Esk	217	1,270	2,080	9,617
Gatton	1,394	3,006	13,041	147,838
Gin Gin	263	7,545	4,937	8,270
Gympie	330	6,788	1,500	24,290
Harrisville	301	7,028	4,001	14,166
Highfields	473	482	547	65,601
Ipswich	321	11,271	4,148	20,880
Killarney	204	7	680	21,891
Laidley	430	4,064	10,134	42,484
Logan	667	22,757	38,944	32,101
Maryborough	294	2,189	14,228	12,581
Mackay	582	8,696	17,299	25,677
Marburg	279	4,540	12,600	19,250
Maroochy	333	3,497	3,802	29,619
Nanango	384	910	935	38,468
Nerang	163	2,620	3,260	14,087
Rockhampton	1,911	15,864	11,847	44,346
Roma	197	3,834	7,133	7,956
South Brisbane	1,308	7,367	965	76,275
Somerset	235	2,965	...	...
Tiaro	230	2,494	3,742	17,951
Toowoomba	1,120	10,318	17,796	87,878
Warwick	882	1,213	1,191	87,381
Other Districts	2,031	51,535	34,582	105,522
Total, 1903	54,712	408,734	531,755	4,145,900
„ 1902	88,416	329,564	512,109	6,512,952

N.B.—Exclusive of pigs killed by butchers and sold retail as fresh pork, amounting to—1902, pigs killed 33,387, pork sold 2,570,799 lb.; 1903, pigs killed 25,644, pork sold 2,102,808 lb., but what proportion is embraced in the inspector's returns in the above table it is impossible to say.

There were 54,712 pigs slaughtered in 1903, against 88,416 in the previous year—a decrease of 33,704. Last year there were produced 408,734 lb. of fresh pork, 531,755 of salt pork, and 4,145,900 lb. of bacon and ham, or a total output of all kinds of 5,086,389 lb.—giving an average weight of 93 lb. to each pig killed.

The Brisbane petty sessions district is the chief site of the bacon industry, comprising 68 per cent. of all pigs slaughtered, and 67 per cent. of the total output. Butchers also killed for sale, retail, to their customers 25,644 pigs, from which 2,102,808 lb. of fresh pork were obtained. Pork, bacon, and hams to the value of £25,000 were exported during 1903.

HOME CONSUMPTION OF MEAT.

With a view of ascertaining the amount of meat consumed as food within the State, returns are obtained from all inspectors of slaughter-houses, and the results are embodied in Table No. IX. in the Appendix. These particulars embrace the meat consumed by an estimated population of 470,633 persons, or 92 per cent. of the total population of Queensland. Allowing pro rata for the 8 per cent. of the population not comprised by the table, the total consumption was: Cattle, 144,054; sheep, 365,601; calves, 5,198; lambs, 2865; pigs, 27,936; or, in terms of meat—beef, 83,157,391 lb.; mutton, 16,730,642 lb.; veal, 312,060 lb.; lamb, 98,783 lb.; pork, 2,283,714 lb.; total of all kinds, 102,582,590 lb. A per capita meat consumption of 200 lb., exclusive of tinned meats; a very pronounced reduction on the quantity consumed a few years ago, enhanced prices having resulted in greater economy, not perhaps as regards legitimate consumption, but with respect to waste.

BY-PRODUCTS.

The by-products of factories engaged in slaughtering live stock for preserving for food are of very considerable value. A few of the small establishments do not keep a record of them or else fail to preserve any but the chief items. All those of importance furnish returns and the particulars obtained are shown in Appendix Table No. VIII. The total value of by-products in 1903 was £209,123, comprising hides, 130,639 in number and £135,518 in value. Skins: Number, 150,900; value, £21,466. Edible fats: Quantity, 1,033,491 lb.; value, £16,807. Other products (n.e.i.): Value, £15,019; manure—tons, 2,215; value, £9,973; horns and hoofs—£4,667; bones—tons, 625, £3,660; oils, &c.—gallons, 10,540, £1,296; hair—17,819 lb., £797.

“MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCE ENCOURAGEMENT ACT.”

Money has been advanced in terms of the above statute to a number of factories engaged in the slaughter and the preservation of the carcasses of cattle, sheep, and pigs for food. The position of the funds with respect to these is set out in the following statement:—

Number of works to which advances have been made ...	...	...	...	...	13
				£	s. d.
Amount advanced to 31st December, 1903 ...	...	...	...	100,437	5 0
Indebtedness (including interest on 31st December, 1903 ...	...	...	...	77,762	10 0
Number of works in operation under Act on 31st December, 1903 ...	...	...	...	...	10
				£	s. d.
Amount advanced on the said works ...	...	...	...	95,305	0 0
Balance owing on the said works on 31st December, 1903 ...	...	...	...	75,600	7 6
Interest accrued but not due to 31st December, 1903 ...	...	...	...	1,053	3 4
Interest due by one company but not yet paid ...	...	...	...	1,108	19 2

WOOL EXPORTED.

There was a substantial increase in 1903 as compared with 1902 in the quantity of wool exported from Queensland. The following table shows the number of pounds and the value of wool shipped outwards during the last two years:—

A m.

Exports,	QUANTITY.			VALUE.		
	Produce of the State.	Foreign.	Total.	Produce of the State.	Foreign.	Total.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	£	£	£
Wool (scoured) ...	19,016,088	117,493	19,133,581	1,308,373	9,455	1,317,828
Wool (greasy) ...	15,712,735	132,760	15,845,495	559,301	6,623	565,924
Total, 1903 ...	34,728,823	250,253	34,979,076	1,867,674	16,078	1,883,752
Total, 1902 ...	29,655,078	199,502	29,854,580	1,304,200	7,226	1,311,426
Increase in 1903 ...	5,073,745	50,751	5,124,496	563,474	8,852	572,326
Decrease in 1903 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...

There were 34,979,076 lb. of wool exported in 1903, against 29,854,580 in the previous year, an actual increase in 1903 of 5,124,496 lb., and a relative one of 17 per cent. Fortunately the full measure of the improvement was not represented by the advance of production alone; during the last season wool witnessed a substantial increase in price. In 1902 the value of wool exported was declared at £1,311,426, and last year at £1,883,752, an increase in aggregate value in the latter year of £572,326, equal to a centesimal advance of 43.6. A slightly larger proportion both actual and relative of wool exported was “Foreign”—i.e., the produce of the adjoining States, namely, 199,502 lb. in 1902, and 250,253 lb. in the following year.

The average values of wool, as shown by the exporters’ declared returns to the Customs, for each of the past five years were as follow:—

	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Greasy wool (average) ...	9d. per lb.	8½d. per lb.	7¾d. per lb.	8d. per lb.	8½d. per lb.
Clean „ „ ...	16d. „	15¾d. „	13¾d. „	14½d. „	16½d. „

A substantial increase on these prices was recorded at the most recent London sales, the average price for certain named brands being quoted at 19½d. to 20½d. for clean, and 9½d. for greasy wool, the sales closing with a firm market.

Naturally the effect of enhanced prices in the London market is reflected in these States. At the sales held in Brisbane on the 26th of May this year a marked increase on previous prices was obtained. Scoured wool realised up to 23½d., and greasy 9½d., and these amounts were for parcels of considerable size.

There does not appear to be any prospect in the near future of establishing industries for the conversion of the large quantities of wool produced into fabrics for commercial or domestic use. The woollen factory started at Ipswich some years ago appears, in its capacity as a manufactory, to be dying of inanition, the quantity of wool used in manufacture throughout the State shrinking in volume with each succeeding year. The following statement furnishes information illustrating this :—

—	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Wool used in manufacture	192,000	175,000	156,000	109,646	84,117

EXPORTS THE PRODUCTS OF THE STATE.

Mineral products have not, of course, any direct connection with this report, but are inserted in the following table in order to show the relative importance of each industry :—

A n.

—	1902.		1903.	
	—	Percentage, Total Exports (Home Produce).	—	Percentage, Total Exports (Home Produce).
	£		£	
Agricultural	1,227,481	14·06	956,275	10·52
Pastoral	3,934,174	45·05	4,221,780	46·46
Mineral	3,164,332	36·24	3,498,930	38·50
Other	406,071	4·65	410,889	4·52
	8,732,058	100·00	£9,087,874	100·00

It will be seen that the products of grazing comprise 46 per cent. of the exported products of the State, and last year attained a value of £4,221,780. In 1902 they were of a value of £3,934,174, and formed 45 per cent. of the export of home production. Further details, particularising the individual items of the export for 1902 and 1903, are given in the following table :—

A o.

—	1902.	1903.	Increase or — Decrease.
	£	£	£
Wool	1,304,200	1,867,674	563,474
*Meat (all kinds, including Extract)	1,523,646	941,975	— 581,671
Cattle	203,466	642,525	439,059
Hides	346,267	234,162	— 112,105
Tallow	214,188	119,997	— 94,191
Horses	83,218	122,830	39,612
Sheep	82,068	152,123	70,055
Skins	127,927	63,719	— 64,208
Manure	16,176	15,768	— 408
Bones, &c.	16,699	12,736	— 3,963
Gluepieces	5,172	3,770	— 1,402

* Exclusive of Bacon, Poultry, &c., these being treated as products of Agriculture.

Wool returned, as already stated, an increase of more than £500,000, counterbalanced by a corresponding decrease in meat; live stock contributed increases aggregating a similar amount. Hides, tallow, and skins, as was to be expected with a decrease in the meat output, also exhibited pronounced reductions.

ANGORA GOATS.

In accordance with the intention expressed in the last Report, circulars and forms were posted to all breeders of Angora goats whose addresses could be ascertained. Although some of them have not vouchsafed any reply, the tenor of those received point to a probable expansion of the industry, and the following remarks are collated from the replies :—Several owners who started with cross-bred sires express the desire of obtaining pure-bred ones, and seek information as to where they are obtainable. Climatic variation seems the principal cause of success or failure. The Northern coastal districts, owing to excess of moisture, seem ill adapted to their success. In the dry climate of Hughenden, on the other hand, they thrive well, and as a food product are stated to be excellent and equal to the finest lamb. More attention has apparently up to the present been given to breeding for meat and milk than for mohair. For the latter purpose, grading up from the common or cross-bred doe, with a pure-bred buck, results in a good commercial product, after the second or third cross, that is three-quarters or seven-eighths pure-bred. As

the breed becomes purer, the fecundity and milk yield decrease. As clearers of scrub land they are specially valuable. One breeder says, "I note they eat nearly all bushes, even sprouts of eucalyptus and coolibah; when we first came here there was a scrub of sandalwood adjacent, there is no scrub now, and the goats cleaned it." If yarded at night herding is not necessary unless wild dogs are numerous. In this case protection may be afforded by rearing a dog of suitable breed in the goat yard, suckled from birth on goats. It would accompany the goats all day, and return with them at night, and defend them if attacked. The skins are a valuable asset, as prices realised ranged from 1s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. each. Although little attention has hitherto been given to the production of mohair, several owners express the intention of shearing this year. The only reply received on this point states that 6½d. per lb. was obtained in Sydney, and this was from pure-bred goats; the wethers sold for killing averaged 40 lb. each, and this at barely two years old. There would appear to be some need for pure or high-grade goats to be protected by law. Complaints are made that the goats are shot by neighbours, and a conviction is difficult to obtain owing to the absence of registered earmarks, &c.

DAIRYING.

The prominence given to dairying in Queensland, owing to the possibilities of export to Europe brought about by the facilities now afforded for shipping produce under refrigeration, has been fully maintained. The temporary check to the industry which resulted from the drought being removed in 1903, the production of butter made rapid progress, and although the output for 1901 was not quite attained to, yet the approximation was sufficiently close to justify the assurance that it would be speedily surpassed, and that the returns for 1904 will considerably exceed those for any previous year. Great Britain imports about 70 per cent. of her requirements of butter, of which not more than one-seventh is supplied from her own dependencies, the other six-sevenths being contributed by foreign countries, chiefly Denmark. It should be possible to secure a large share of this market, but to do so it will be inevitably necessary to supply an article of the first quality, and to guard against any inferior production whatever being exported.

The private separator is very convenient, and, unfortunately, proprietors of central creameries are not always just, but experts are nearly unanimous that it is to the use of the private separator that the production of inferior butter may generally be attributed. The Government Dairy Commissioner for New Zealand, speaking on this subject recently, said:—"After careful observation at many of the best factories of Victoria and New South Wales, I feel it my duty to condemn this system for the manufacture of export butter in much stronger terms than I have already done."

The following table furnishes full particulars respecting the manufacture of butter and cheese during 1903:—

B.

RETURN OF BUTTER AND CHEESE FACTORIES AND THE RESULTS OBTAINED THEREFROM DURING THE YEAR 1903; ALSO PRODUCTION BY PRIVATE MAKERS.

DISTRICT.	ESTABLISHMENTS HANDLING		MILK, CREAM, AND BUTTER.					CHEESE.		
	Cream Only.	Cream and Butter.	*Milk dealt with.	*Cream Produced.	BUTTER MADE.			Producers.	Milk Dealt with.	Cheese
					At Central Factories.	By Farmers.	Total.			
			Gallons.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.		Gallons.	Lb.
Allora	41	142	605,276	428,021	6,050	36,942	42,992	2	76,181	76,503
Beaudesert	17	290	1,189,656	940,637	162,925	77,958	240,883	...	...	...
Brisbane	36	73	307,351	229,371	852,700	69,140	921,840	...	...	...
Bundaberg	23	269	445,059	330,751	76,766	98,139	174,905	...	...	...
Caboolture	4	57	470,558	318,716	7,578	50,652	58,230	...	...	...
Crow's Nest	34	193	528,327	356,204	...	29,976	29,976	8	18,052	18,052
Dalby	49	109	316,343	224,418	...	17,282	17,282	3	5,699	5,699
Dugandan	106	180	1,071,929	822,218	226,978	27,730	254,708	3	304	304
Esk	87	37	607,639	394,330	149,312	16,085	165,397	4	21,735	19,056
Gatton	304	103	1,283,759	987,680	10,192	28,064	38,256	1	2,194	2,194
Gympie	45	179	603,372	423,987	223,007	43,939	266,946	1	170	170
Harrisville	162	8	957,659	703,199	16,361	3,190	19,551	2	160,388	182,339
Highfields	119	118	532,053	449,207	...	21,105	21,105	6	15,400	15,400
Ipswich	148	69	807,517	596,549	1,445,949	23,689	1,469,638	...	...	...
Laidley	108	38	338,065	256,852	...	14,569	14,569	1	100	100
Logan	97	198	432,523	278,257	6,200	42,238	48,438	...	...	...
Mackay	1	142	248,780	167,865	15,926	63,169	79,095	...	...	...
Marburg	146	9	1,084,047	900,017	395,669	1,314	396,983	...	...	...
Maroochy	9	104	213,017	152,362	...	33,374	33,374	2	3,060	3,060
Maryborough	21	153	267,397	171,724	97,550	44,764	142,314	...	...	...
Nerang	19	130	699,989	565,053	...	31,000	31,000	...	...	...
Redcliffe	132	48	639,126	479,377	312,677	41,139	353,816	2	21,000	20,988
Rockhampton ... ..	...	184	642,525	384,885	50,553	140,012	190,565	...	...	...
Rosewood	91	20	734,287	605,766	...	12,084	12,084	...	...	...
South Brisbane	11	56	118,621	80,142	680,819	28,983	709,802	...	...	...
Tiaro	99	14	625,129	329,749	117,092	3,268	120,360	3	6,052	6,052
Toowoomba	134	301	1,087,990	863,702	1,255,713	69,251	1,324,964	5	642,753	685,362
Warwick	29	152	385,069	291,523	151,032	72,232	223,264	6	311,603	328,310
All other Districts	73	951	1,507,541	985,279	...	314,988	314,988	12	110,089	116,162
Total 1903	2,145	4,327	18,750,604	13,717,841	6,261,049	1,456,276	7,717,325	61	1,394,780	1,479,651
Total 1902	1,920	3,079	13,787,175	9,946,244	4,099,768	751,594	4,851,362	62	931,205	952,013
Increase 1903	225	1,248	4,963,429	3,771,597	2,161,281	704,682	2,865,963	...	463,575	527,638
Decrease 1903	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...

* N.B.—The quantities of milk and cream in any district bear but little relation to the butter made in that district, as much of the milk and cream is conveyed elsewhere than the place of production for manufacture.

ESTABLISHMENTS.—There were 1,473 more establishments engaged in the handling of cream and butter in 1903 than in the previous year—namely, 6,472 in the former and 4,999 in the latter.

MILK.—There were 18,750,604 gallons of milk dealt with last year for conversion into butter, against 13,787,175 gallons so used in 1902, an increase of 4,963,429 gallons. In 1901 there were 26,286,459 gallons of milk returned by farmers. The milk produced in any district has little relation to the cream extracted, still less to the butter made there, as both milk and cream are frequently carried considerable distances for extraction or manufacture. The localities from whence the largest supplies of

milk are obtained are West Moreton, Toowoomba, and Logan. The group of petty sessions districts comprising the firstnamed contributed 6,884,902 gallons, or 36 per cent. of the total output of the State. On an average each gallon of milk produced 0.73 lb. of cream and 0.41 lb. of butter. In 1902 the averages were 0.72 lb. of cream and 0.35 lb. of butter.

CREAM.—The private separator is in such general use that it is difficult to make the distinction of what might be termed public creameries. In 1903 there were 13,717,841 lb. of cream obtained; this was 3,771,597 lb. more than in 1902, when the output was 9,946,244 lb. Although milk is at times carried long distances for extraction, it is most usually dealt with reasonably near the site of production, consequently the districts which figured as chief producers of milk are in a similar position with regard to cream. The average quantity of butter to each 1 lb. of cream for the whole State was, in 1902, 0.49 lb., and 1903, 0.56 lb.; the higher proportion in the latter year being doubtless largely due to better and more liberal feed being available.

The following are the particulars with respect to advances made to creameries under the Meat and Dairy Encouragement Act, and Votes for loans in aid of co-operation agricultural production:—

B a.

	Number.	Amount.
		£ s. d.
Number of works to which advances have been made	19	...
Number of works now in operation	9	...
Amount advanced up to 31st December, 1903 ... ..	...	1,909 16 2
Amount advanced to works now in operation to 31st December, 1903 ... ..	...	846 0 0
Indebtedness to State on 31st December, 1903 ... ..	...	837 0 3
Including interest due, but not paid ... ..	...	33 10 2
And interest accrued, but not due ... ..	...	57 13 7

BUTTER.—The output of butter for 1903 was 7,717,325 lb., against 4,851,362 in 1902, or an increase of 2,865,963 lb. actual, and 59 per cent. relative. Of the production last year 6,261,049, or 81 per cent. was factory butter, the remainder being made by farmers at their own homes. The increase of farmers' butter has been relatively greater than that of factory butter.

Brisbane, Ipswich, and Toowoomba are the chief centres of butter manufacture, the quantities made in each of these places respectively being 1,631,642 lb., 1,469,638 lb., and 1,324,964 lb. Of the 1,631,642 lb. made in the metropolitan districts, 709,802 lb., or not quite half, were the produce of the petty sessions district of South Brisbane.

AVERAGES.—The averages for the whole State for 1903 were 1.37 gallons milk to each 1 lb. of cream, 1.78 lb. of cream to each 1 lb. of butter, and 2.43 gallons of milk to each 1 lb. of butter. The like averages for 1902 were 1.39, 2.05, and 2.84. For reasons already given, averages in individual districts, based on the milk dealt with or cream produced, as shown in the table, would be misleading.

BUTTER EXPORTED.—That butter will at an early date form an important item amongst the exports of the State is beyond question. The quantity and value of butter exported during each of the past five years were as follow:—

	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Butter.—Quantity (lb.) ...	1,159,255	1,389,250	2,085,998	552,625	1,223,414
Value ...	£49,517	£51,729	£86,171	£24,610	£49,804

The figures for the three years—1899-1901, especially the lastnamed year—illustrate the rapid expansion of the industry, as shown by the exports; then the culmination in 1902 of the effects of the long period of dry weather resulted in the drop in that year to one-fourth of the quantity exported in 1901. The rapid recovery exhibited in the figures for 1903 affords good promise of further rapid expansion with a continuance of the present favourable conditions, although the present high price of dairy cattle to some extent prevents many small farmers from taking full opportunity of the plentiful supply of fodder now at their disposal. The exports of butter for the three eastern States of the Commonwealth were:—

	Quantity. lb.	Value. £
Queensland	1,223,414	49,804
New South Wales	10,649,093	409,196
Victoria	31,253,151	1,301,132

If Queensland's very modest contribution to the total is, from one standpoint, disappointing, yet the total volume affords satisfactory evidence as to the possibilities of export.

STATE AID.—The following statement shows the condition of funds advanced in aid of this industry under "The Meat and Dairy Encouragement Act" and Supplementary Votes for loans:—

B b.

	Number.	Amount.
		£ s. d.
Number of factories to which advances have been made	13	...
Number of factories now in operation	7	...
Amount advanced up to 31st December, 1903 ... ..	...	11,685 12 6
Amount advanced to works now in operation to 31st December, 1903 ... ..	...	6,726 0 3
Indebtedness to State on 31st December, 1903 ... ..	...	6,657 4 7
Including interest owing, but not paid ... ..	...	59 3 8
And interest accrued, but not yet due ... ..	...	357 16 3

There were 61 establishments engaged in the production of cheese last year, against 62 in the previous year. The production was upwards of 50 per cent. greater in 1903 than in 1902—namely, 1,479,651 lb. in the former and 952,013 lb. in the latter year. Toowoomba and Warwick were the chief districts of production, the two together contributing 69 per cent. of the total output, the firstnamed district producing 685,362 lb. and the lastnamed 328,310 lb.

This industry has also been assisted to a small extent by the State, the condition of the funds being as follows:—

B c.

	Number.	Amount.
		£ s. d.
Number of factories to which advances have been made	4	
Number of factories now in operation	2	
Amount advanced up to 31st December, 1903 ... ..	...	1,525 0 0
Amount advanced to works now in operation to 31st December, 1903 ... ..	...	1,050 0 0
Indebtedness to State on 31st December, 1903 ... ..	...	888 12 6
Including interest due, but not paid ... ..	...	...
And interest accrued, but not due ... ..	...	...

CONDENSED MILK.

The three factories engaged in preserving milk that were in operation during 1902 continued their business during the following year. Two of these had received pecuniary advances from the State, particulars concerning which are as follows:—

B d.

	Number.	Amount.
		£ s. d.
Number of factories to which advances have been made	2	...
Number of factories now in operation	2	...
Amount advanced up to 31st December, 1903 ... ..	...	2,175 0 0
Amount advanced to works now in operation to 31st December, 1903 ... ..	...	2,175 0 0
Indebtedness to State on 31st December, 1903 ... ..	...	2,455 0 10
Including interest due, but not paid ... ..	...	...
And interest accrued, but not due ... ..	...	280 0 10

The value of condensed milk made during 1903 was £12,754, against £7,097 in 1902. Imports are returned as 1,841,791 lb. in 1903, valued at £33,621; against which must be set the exports for the same period—viz., 84,503 lb., value £1,568.

POULTRY.

Too frequently the poultry-yard is regarded as of doubtful benefit, or at least of so insignificant a character in its results as only to count as a means of providing a little additional pocket-money for the wife and daughters of the farmer. The great attention now paid to the breeding and rearing of poultry in many lands proves how erroneous is that idea, and whilst no doubt some who have entered upon the industry in a large way have conspicuously failed in their efforts to render it remunerative, this has frequently been due to the proprietor's ignorance of the subject, and the consequent mismanagement of the undertaking. Poultry-farming has been proved a success in other lands, and therefore it should be made to pay in Queensland, but it is rather an important and remunerative adjunct to general farming operations that it offers its best inducements.

A brief consideration of what poultry products mean elsewhere may help to a realisation of greater results in that direction in this State. In the United States of America the earnings of poultry outstrips financially the profits of any other industry. New Zealand has largely increased the output in recent years, and has found in South Africa a ready market for both poultry and eggs. In 1892 South Australia exported £28,000 worth of eggs, ten years later these figures had expanded to nearly £108,000. There are in that province twice as many head of poultry as there are recorded in Queensland. Victoria has given and is giving much attention to the matter, and New South Wales has contributed some valuable data on the treatment of poultry, more particularly by the information derived in the course of a series of egg-laying competitions inaugurated and carried out in connection with the Hawkesbury Agricultural College, particulars respecting which are given in the May issue of the New South Wales agricultural journal. The possibilities of increasing the productions and the profits by selection of birds and suitable treatment and feeding are very wide.

In common with other branches of agriculture, the experiences of 1902 with respect to poultry was most unsatisfactory. Last year witnessed a great improvement in this respect, yet the results were considerably below what were secured in 1901.

The following table compares the totals for 1902 and 1903, and furnishes further details for the latter year:—

B e.

Petty Sessions District.	Fowls.	Ducks.	Geese.	Turkeys.	Other.	Eggs.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Doz.
Allora	19,428	417	76	610	11	59,322
Beaudesert	15,433	976	206	708	...	33,128
Brisbane	15,534	1,904	93	54	...	50,006
Bundaberg	14,805	428	15	186	...	55,547
Cairns	14,337	160	29	51	22	41,889
Childers	8,559	395	40	232	16	35,471
Crow's Nest	11,459	33	230	36	...	14,527
Dalby	11,415	471	128	1,703	...	16,928
Dugandan	21,115	848	558	370	32	89,016
Esk	11,942	588	343	745	4	63,635
Gatton	32,113	775	565	377	6	122,803
Gympie	12,035	596	160	353	44	39,965
Harrisville	13,404	896	128	247	40	42,871
Herberton	7,005	130	25	30	12	23,429
Highfields	17,693	171	77	209	2	70,551
Ipswich	11,557	680	167	183	...	42,906
Killarney	6,827	340	42	207	53	15,793
Laidley	18,099	973	941	421	7	76,346
Logan	16,791	1,243	355	39	9	68,038
Mackay	19,306	470	84	231	135	49,236
Marburg	13,959	1,154	475	43	...	51,250
Maroochy	11,075	310	30	8	10	71,627
Maryborough	7,357	666	102	79	...	34,528
Nanango	9,362	175	54	211	...	21,016
Nerang	14,714	743	46	52	8	32,350
Redcliffe	10,528	933	146	41	12	28,484
Rockhampton	16,895	828	129	354	11	75,950
Rosewood	11,166	366	174	182	...	43,912
Roma	9,369	279	9	314	...	24,581
South Brisbane	8,957	2,258	63	29	2	50,350
Tiaro	9,750	922	188	360	48	25,355
Toowoomba	45,288	902	174	1,863	7	104,871
Townsville	9,590	719	28	45	51	29,602
Warwick	19,571	636	265	2,248	...	18,514
All other Districts	92,463	4,130	670	3,864	289	267,684
Total, 1903	588,901	27,515	6,815	16,685	831	1,891,481
Total, 1902	443,544	14,717	4,516	7,357	895	1,498,821
Increase, 1903	145,357	12,798	2,299	9,328	...	392,660
Decrease, 1903 ... ..	...	...	...	...	64	...

Some idea as to difference in management may be formed from the fact that Gatton returned from 32,113 head of poultry 122,803 dozen eggs, whilst at Toowoomba only 104,871 dozen were secured from 45,288 head. The number of ducks practically doubled between 1902 and 1903.

HONEY AND WAX.

The 1903 season was much more satisfactory with respect to the production of honey than that of the previous year. From the increased number of non-productive, as well as of productive hives, it may be concluded that a further expansion from the hiving of fresh stocks was in progress, which promises well for the future. It is to be noted that the long period of dearth of honey-bearing flowers which culminated in 1902 not only restricted the surplus of honey available from many hives, but at the same time limited the normal swarmings, and in some instances even resulted in colonies dying of starvation. The losses in hives recorded in the returns for 1902 aggregated 5,514, so that beekeepers during 1903 recovered the status they had lost, and received besides a much more generous return than they had been able to do for the previous two years. A comparison of the output in each of the principal districts for the past two years is shown in the following table:—

B f.

District.	No. of Hives.		Honey.	Average per Productive Hive.	Wax.	District.	No. of Hives.		Honey.	Average per Productive Hive.	Wax.
	Productive.	Non-Productive.					Productive.	Non-Productive.			
Allora	175	81	Lb. 1,527	Lb. 9	Lb. 58	Maroochy	861	147	Lb. 36,465	Lb. 42	Lb. 762
Beaudesert	281	147	12,926	46	398	Maryborough	204	157	8,840	43	318
Brisbane	514	253	16,756	33	460	Nerang	615	121	56,037	91	701
Bundaberg	217	122	6,710	31	414	Redcliffe	344	322	16,403	48	223
Caboolture	1,004	88	44,686	45	965	Rockhampton	578	202	45,198	78	1,274
Cook	262	41	12,660	48	140	Rosewood	234	115	17,611	75	140
Crow's Nest	347	317	19,692	57	274	South Brisbane	728	144	76,256	105	992
Dugandan	232	279	3,022	13	109	Tiaro	83	11	4,887	59	70
Esk	218	5	15,807	73	301	Toowoomba	303	149	13,591	45	118
Gatton	812	236	14,594	18	203	Warwick	362	74	9,540	26	160
Gympie	586	149	42,029	72	610	Woodford	245	22	9,152	37	248
Harrisville	170	36	9,572	56	314	All other Districts	1,099	294	32,928	30	989
Herberton	149	33	2,585	17	57						
Ipswich	338	142	16,094	48	489	Total for 1903	13,231	4,706	647,005	49	13,621
Killarney	607	349	19,710	32	360	Total for 1902	9,179	3,137	388,281	42	10,204
Laidley	327	161	10,173	31	459						
Logan	1,128	392	63,310	56	1,775	Increase for 1903	4,052	1,569	258,724	7	3,417
Mackay	116	...	5,700	49	220	Decrease for 1903 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Marburg	92	117	2,544	28	20						

There were 5,621 more hives returned in 1903 than in the previous year—namely, 17,937 against 12,316. Of these 13,213 and 9,179 were productive, and 4,706 and 3,137 were non-productive, in the former and latter years each respectively. In 1903 there were 647,005 lb. of honey obtained, or an average of 49 lb. for each productive hive; the corresponding returns for 1902 were 388,281 lb. and 42 lb. The output of wax was 13,621 lb. in 1903, and 10,204 lb. in 1902.

The largest number of hives were in Logan—1,128 productive and 392 non-productive—followed closely by Caboolture with 1,004 and 88 respectively. The three districts of greatest production of honey were—South Brisbane, 76,256 lb.; Logan, 63,310 lb.; and Nerang, 56,037 lb. The firstnamed district returned the honey as obtained from 728 hives, or an average of 105 lb. to each hive, two producers maintaining a production from a considerable number of hives of 200 lb. and 163 lb. per hive. The honey obtained in Nerang was returned as from 615 hives, or an average of 91 lb. to each hive.

The honey season is necessarily during the spring and early summer, when trees and plants are in flower, so that the produce of one year figures chiefly in the exports of the next. The exports of honey for each of the last three years were as follow:—

B g.

HONEY EXPORTED.

Country.						1901.		1902.		1903.	
						Lb.	£	Lb.	£	Lb.	£
United Kingdom	...	...	...	...	...	17,653	167	224	2	648	5
Australasia	...	...	...	...	...	32,953	334	208,504	2,398	140,011	1,556
Elsewhere	...	...	...	...	...	4,110	43	7,560	74	346	13
						54,716	544	216,288	2,474	141,005	1,574

In 1901 the return of honey was much greater than in the following year, which explains the larger export in 1902 than in 1903.

IMPORT OF PRODUCTS OF AGRICULTURE.

An improvement in the conditions relating to agriculture is at once reflected in marked decreases in the importation of products of that industry. The measure of the consumption of agricultural articles of daily use may certainly be reduced under the pressure of increased cost in their procurement, but the demand for them does not shrink so promptly as does home supply in response to drought, and the shortage so caused has to be supplied by a foreign article, this being immediately replaced by the home product on the return of more favourable seasons.

The total imports of food-stuffs, &c., the product of agriculture, for each of the past five years are given in the following table:—

C.

Value of—				1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
				£	£	£	£	£
Grain, &c., and various Products thereof	...	...	...	640,765	589,948	457,044	846,621	829,232
Fruit, and various Products thereof	...	...	...	150,130	155,609	160,413	186,521	318,667
Vegetables, Fresh and Preserved	...	...	...	102,818	95,922	124,296	203,640	
Other Products of Agriculture	...	...	...	163,698	184,148	170,388	628,531	403,632
				1,057,411	1,025,627	912,141	1,865,313	1,551,531

Queensland possesses such varieties of soil and so wide a range of climate that probably very few of the items embraced in the above table but are capable of being raised in the State. Some of them, at least, are not at present within the realm of probable production. This, however, does not apply to by far the greater number, and the figures may be taken as affording a good indication of the possibilities for expansion.

The imports of these commodities increased more than 100 per cent. as between 1901 and 1902, fell again last year by 17 per cent., but the value in all three years was much above that of either of the other two years of the quinquennium.

It is true that the drought broke early in 1903, but the resulting crops did not mature for many months afterwards, and the full measure of improvement in this respect would, therefore, be experienced during the current year.

For 1903, it is not possible to collate the items into the same grouping as in previous years, as the Customs returns for that year do not discriminate between fruit and vegetables, so that these two groups have to be amalgamated. The principal fall in 1903—as was the chief rise in 1902 on previous years' figures—was in "Other Products."

Further information respecting the imports and exports, together with the net import or export of principal items of food-stuffs of all kinds, is furnished in the following table:—

C a.

WHERE IMPORTS EXCEED EXPORTS.

PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF FOODSTUFFS.	IMPORTS.		EXPORTS.		NET IMPORTS.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£		£
Bacon and Hams	572,648 lb.	22,665	393,719 lb.	16,673	178,929 lb.	5,992
Barley	39,363 centals	15,325	...	...	39,363 centals	15,325
Barley (Pearl)	148,169 lb.	1,046	...	...	148,169 lb.	1,046
Biscuits	552,279 "	18,535	87,833 "	2,088	464,446 "	16,447
Butter	1,536,831 "	70,031	1,223,414 "	49,804	313,417 "	20,227
Cheese	606,504 "	17,043	78,199 "	2,200	528,305 "	14,843
Coffee (all kinds)	262,164 "	7,556	74,932 "	2,107	187,232 "	5,449
Flour	714,617 centals	399,795	9,724 centals	6,224	704,893 centals	393,571
Fruit and Vegetables ... ..	...	151,168	...	148,476	...	2,692
Hay and Chaff	243,479 cwt.	50,200	4,089 cwt.	773	239,390 cwt.	49,427
Maize	48,833 centals	15,074	24,799 centals	8,198	24,034 centals	6,876
Maizena and Cornflour	438,290 lb.	4,635	1,751 lb.	33	436,539 lb.	4,602
Malt	35,933 centals	25,121	1,402 centals	1,000	34,531 centals	24,121
Milk (Preserved)	1,841,791 lb.	33,621	84,503 lb.	1,568	1,757,288 lb.	32,053
Oatmeal	2,103,430 "	19,062	15,446 "	168	2,087,984 "	18,894
Oats	53,792 centals	18,349	15 centals	11	53,777 centals	18,338
Onions	89,089 cwt.	14,985	291 cwt.	126	88,798 cwt.	14,859
Potatoes	534,685 "	89,605	15,290 "	2,900	519,395 "	86,705
Preserves	3,731,941 lb.	54,438	386,290 lb.	6,615	3,345,651 lb.	47,823
Rice	94,668 centals	63,271	5,093 centals	1,912	89,575 centals	61,359
Wheat	603,341 "	218,078	47 "	19	603,294 "	218,059
Total Values ... ..	...	1,309,603	...	250,895	...	1,058,708

WHERE EXPORTS EXCEED IMPORTS.

PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF FOODSTUFFS.	IMPORTS.		EXPORTS.		NET EXPORTS.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£		£
Arrowroot	264 lb.	7	360,748 lb.	5,058	360,484 lb.	5,051
Cattle, Sheep, and Pigs ... ..	...	504,265	...	794,666	...	290,401
Eggs ... ..	...	345	...	3,968	...	3,623
Lard and Refined Animal Fats	220,259 lb.	5,905	361,900 lb.	6,856	141,641 lb.	951
Meat (all kinds, including Extract) ... ..	...	63,243	...	954,426	...	891,183
Molasses	1,032 cwt.	66	21,030 cwt.	1,425	19,998 cwt.	1,359
Oysters ... ..	...	8	...	23,640	...	23,632
Sugar	972 cwt.	733	1,081,928 cwt.	646,932	1,080,956 cwt.	646,199
Total Values ... ..	...	574,572	...	2,436,971	...	1,862,399

It will be noticed that the upper portion of the table is devoted to articles with regard to which imports are in the ascendant, the converse being the case with respect to the other section of the table.

In 1902 the excess value of the net exports over net imports was £1,228,228; last year it was £803,691 only, the decrease in the export of meat and sugar mainly accounting for the difference.

NET IMPORTS.—Taking a few individual items of marked difference of value in 1902 and 1903 respectively, butter in 1902 totalled 2,718,434 lb., valued at £153,229; last year it was reduced to 313,417 lb., valued at £20,227 sterling. Of maize, in 1902, there were 616,535 centals and £213,076, and in 1903, 24,034 centals and £6,876. Preserved milk, 2,380,222 lb. and £43,472 in 1902, and 1,757,288 lb. and £32,053 in 1903. Oats, 106,585 centals, £41,044 in the first year, and 53,777 centals, £18,338, last year. Unfortunately, the importation of preserves increased from 2,847,676 lb., £40,324, in 1902, to 3,345,651 lb., £47,823, in 1903. Wheat and flour imports, as a consequence of the failure of the 1902 wheat season, and from the fact that the 1903 crop was not available until the end of that year, largely increased—namely, from wheat, 125,163 centals, £43,990, in 1902, to 603,294 centals, £218,059, in 1903; and flour, 699,432 centals, £317,709, in 1902, to 704,893 centals, £393,571, in 1903, the difference in the latter item being chiefly in value only.

NET EXPORTS.—The decrease in 1903, as compared with 1902, in those items of net export to which reference has been made, were—meat, &c., value, £591,816; sugar, quantity (tons) 17,125, value, £286,407; green fruit, which appeared as a net export of £46,107 in 1902, became, in conjunction with vegetables, a net import, being, as already pointed out, included with the latter in the new Customs classification. The value of the net export of live stock was greater in 1903 than in 1902—namely, £290,401 in the former and £135,670 in the latter year.

LABOUR AND MACHINERY, ETC., ON FARMS.

LABOUR.—The number of males and females engaged in the various branches of the agricultural industry during the year, together with the value of machinery and implements employed in connection therewith, is shown in the following table:—

C b.

DISTRICT.	LABOUR.				VALUE OF MACHINERY AND IMPLEMENTS.			
	Farming.		Dairying.		Farming.	Dairying.	Irrigation.	Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	£	£	£	£
Allora	919	290	71	195	60,622	2,870	550	64,042
Ayr	942	24	3	2	9,179	111	19,455	28,745
Beaudesert	430	2	260	246	9,145	6,684	380	16,209
Bundaberg	1,936	47	57	129	35,336	3,497	45,352	84,185
Dalby	585	9	29	28	21,000	2,582	75	23,657
Dugandan	602	69	68	276	15,695	4,930	300	20,925
Gatton	1,193	136	401	238	35,917	7,576	50	43,543
Gympie	449	33	96	83	13,537	3,970	600	18,107
Harrisville	508	18	325	148	13,599	6,000	245	19,844
Highfields	704	14	19	197	17,667	3,551	...	21,218
Killarney	399	1	1	2	19,462	636	...	20,098
Laidley	806	100	8	200	24,626	3,162	140	27,928
Logan	762	84	33	138	11,571	2,676	...	14,247
Mackay	2,295	80	30	75	33,596	1,008	2,918	37,522
Marburg	497	115	136	239	13,709	3,626	...	17,335
Redcliffe	479	253	11	70	10,618	4,082	340	15,040
Rockhampton	603	88	116	168	16,127	2,937	3,170	22,234
Roma	412	80	1	86	20,218	681	...	20,899
Toowoomba	2,138	293	126	332	87,139	5,971	200	93,310
Warwick	1,040	10	99	29	63,745	2,008	130	65,883
All other Districts	16,227	751	1,132	1,265	191,941	36,200	24,616	252,757
Total 1903	33,926	2,497	3,022	4,146	724,449	104,758	98,521	927,728
Total 1902	28,972	1,877	1,944	3,513	653,232	86,418	87,234	826,884

The relief that was afforded to the congested labour market by the improved conditions obtaining in 1903 must have been very great. There were some 7,000 more persons making their living by agriculture in that year than in the one immediately preceding. Of these 5,000 and 600 respectively were males and females occupied in general farming, and 1,100 males and 600 females engaged in dairying.

MACHINERY, ETC.—The machinery and implements returned in 1903 exceeded in value those so recorded in 1902 by £100,844. The figures returned last year, no doubt, in some instances, include articles omitted from the returns in 1902 as not having been in use during that year, although on the farm, consequently the fresh purchases for 1903 would not amount to the full increase in the value as shown in the table, but as the latter exceeded that for 1901 by some £90,000, there would here be evidence that large purchases of new machinery did take place. The increase was chiefly in implements required for general farming, which advanced from £653,232 in 1902 to £724,449 in the following year, an increase of £71,217. Machinery, &c., in connection with dairying was valued at £86,418 in 1902, and £104,758 in 1903, an increase of £18,340; and the capital invested in irrigation advanced from £87,234 to £98,521, an increase of £11,287, Bundaberg being responsible for £8,000 of this increase.

FORESTRY.

Although forestry is not a subject bearing directly on questions dealt with in this report, yet it is so interwoven with interests which affect the agricultural and pastoral industry that a passing reference to the subject may not be considered out of place. Climatic conditions generally, but particularly that of rainfall, are of paramount importance, and the connection between forestry and meteorology, though disputed by some, is considered by many to be a real one. Facts that are matters of history, notably in

Asia Minor and in the areas lying to the north and south of the Mediterranean, would seem to justify the latter contention. Even those who deny that forests are factors in increasing the precipitation of moisture will probably allow that they have a beneficial influence in minimising the worst effect of heavy rainfall, and by retarding the surface flow give main watercourses greater time to discharge, thus reducing the liability to severe flooding. Growing timber, moreover, by acting as a windbreak, is a good preventative of "travelling sand," the destroyer of much good pasture land, too frequently the sequel of "overstocking," itself largely due to the inequality of the rainfall.

Nor should the direct commercial aspect of the question be lost sight of. Some may deem it early days to consider the question of timber supply, but is this really the case? The demand for timber is increasing everywhere; fresh methods of utilisation are constantly arising. Germany and England together now require to be supplied annually with timber to the value of £40,000,000, whilst a number of British colonies are large importers.

Canada, the land of (so-called) inexhaustible forests, is seriously considering the question of denudation. Victoria has greatly reduced her timber area, and, though in a lesser degree, the same may be said of the other States. There are probably few investments that would ultimately prove more remunerative than a comprehensive system of forestry; the return, however, could not of course be looked for for some years.

Practically no attempt has yet been made in Queensland to establish new forests, although some effort has been made to protect and maintain existing timber areas. The State resources in this product are decreasing, due to a disregard for the future on the part of the lumberer and settler alike. It is deserving of consideration whether further action is not now necessary; it might even be questioned whether "ringbarking" as an "improvement" on Crown selections ought not to be recognised only with the greatest discrimination. Ringbarking doubtless increases the carrying capacity of the land for a time, but its ultimate effects may possibly, in many instances, be less beneficial, and in the end prove anything but satisfactory to the district at large.

Exports of timber, the produce of the State, are not extensive, but have advanced considerably during the last four years, the values being—1899, £6,763; in 1900, £18,098; 1901, £19,513; in 1902, £22,726; and last year £31,627. Fresh outlets are presenting themselves, and recently an important order for railway sleepers for South Africa has been secured. The extension of the export trade in timber only emphasises the necessity of rigorously maintaining, if not supplementing, our sources of supply.

AGRICULTURE PROPER.

Those of our farmers who, undeterred by the failure of the 1902 crops and the unsatisfactory returns too frequently resulting in the years more immediately preceding, persisted in their efforts, were, during 1903, in most instances rewarded by a bountiful return. Unfortunately the limitation obtaining with respect to markets restricted financial results by bringing about a fall in the price of all farm products, a result more satisfactory to the consumer than to the producer.

A noticeable feature in connection with the industry last year was the appreciable extension of agriculture, shown as well in the initiation of farming operations in localities not hitherto occupied by the husbandman as in important additions to the areas in places where cultivation had already been in progress. Near Brisbane, Blackall Range, Burnett, and Esk, contributed large extensions. The scrubs of the upper reaches of the Burnett River and its tributaries promise at an early date to become the sites of important agricultural centres. In the West there was a large additional area placed under the plough in Maranoa, whilst on the north-east coast fresh areas have been cultivated or the acreage greatly extended, notably at Eila Bay and on the Tully.

It has yearly been growing more manifest that the financial divisions of the State failed to lend themselves as suitable groupings for agricultural areas. For 1903 a fresh scheme has been adopted, embodying the various petty sessions districts, which have been grouped under one or other of eight heads, selected as suitable for the purpose. Commencing in the North, the first group, designated "Rockingham," embraces all petty sessions districts on the coast side of the range from Cape Tribulation to the centre of Halifax Bay. The second in like manner comprises those to the south as far as Cape Palmerston. These have been called "Edgecumbe" group. The next five, "Port Curtis," "Wide Bay and Burnett," "Moreton," "Darling Downs," and "Maranoa," are identical in boundaries with the pastoral districts so-named. The eighth group comprises all petty sessions districts in the State outside the other seven groups, and for practical purposes may be defined as non-agricultural. It is believed that this grouping will prove more convenient than that formerly adopted, and will, moreover, be more adapted to modification from time to time as conditions with regard to areas vary.

With the more favourable conditions as to weather which obtained during 1903 there was of course a large expansion in the area under cultivation and under crop. The acreages for each of the past five years were as follow:—

	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Under cultivation ...	455,645	480,372	507,317	478,121	621,693
Under crop ...	420,746	457,397	483,460	275,383	566,589

Passing 1902 as a year of drought, it is seen that the areas in 1903 exceeded those for 1901 by—

Under cultivation ... 114,376 acres. Under crop ... 83,129 acres.

Centesimal increase, 23 per cent. and 17 per cent. respectively.

SIZE OF CULTIVATED AREAS.

The extent of the cultivation on farms, grouped according to the areas on each, and giving the number of holdings under each group, is shown in the following table:—

C c.

Petty Sessions District.	ACRES UNDER CULTIVATION.									
	5 Acres and under.		Above 5 and not exceeding 20 Acres.		Above 20 and not exceeding 50 Acres.		Above 50 Acres.		Totals.	
	Owners.	Acres.	Owners.	Acres.	Owners.	Acres.	Owners.	Acres.	Owners.	Acres.
Allora	1	3	13	163	58	2,159	427	57,363	499	59,688
Ayr	2	7	11	137	20	663	36	6,740	69	7,547
Beaudesert	37	109	101	1,249	125	4,259	59	4,629	322	10,246
Bowen	29	82	57	711	45	1,415	21	1,674	152	3,882
Brisbane	191	606	305	3,233	50	1,366	2	123	548	5,328
Bundaberg	53	145	148	1,682	162	5,250	138	25,261	501	32,338
Cairns	40	136	116	1,384	66	2,389	70	11,209	292	15,118
Childers	27	89	79	948	91	3,084	113	12,411	310	16,532
Crow's Nest	24	87	120	1,633	174	5,452	53	3,505	371	10,677
Dalby	47	114	119	1,377	89	2,792	88	12,966	343	17,249
Douglas	18	60	27	296	37	1,276	48	5,585	130	7,217
Dugandan	8	21	132	1,934	245	7,722	42	2,767	427	12,444
Esk	25	58	107	1,328	50	1,695	10	594	192	3,675
Gatton	57	173	194	2,514	312	10,366	199	17,282	762	30,335
Gin Gin	5	21	41	542	66	2,255	47	4,878	159	7,696
Gympie	97	272	158	1,782	74	2,369	10	734	339	5,157
Harrisville	17	35	84	1,090	128	4,236	67	5,101	296	10,462
Herberton	33	97	49	596	36	1,200	40	3,900	158	5,793
Highfields	25	85	114	1,563	209	6,838	101	8,239	449	16,725
Ingham	12	22	10	134	31	1,080	101	12,138	154	13,374
Ipswich	67	176	127	1,478	76	2,305	27	2,108	297	6,067
Killarney	13	48	29	319	67	2,236	125	15,630	234	18,233
Laidley	18	50	125	1,739	239	7,860	108	8,221	490	17,870
Logan	112	295	255	3,137	98	2,690	3	205	468	6,327
Mackay	98	282	262	3,188	256	8,567	126	13,832	742	25,869
Marburg	31	79	64	852	148	5,154	78	6,036	321	12,121
Maroochy	161	429	230	2,469	84	2,386	8	543	483	5,827
Maryborough	107	300	160	1,642	64	1,809	6	382	337	4,133
Mitchell	5	18	6	89	12	382	34	5,270	57	5,759
Mourilyan	31	189	100	1,750	91	2,751	49	8,091	271	12,781
Nanango	23	72	130	1,672	125	3,839	50	3,769	328	9,352
Nerang	33	96	103	1,230	63	1,956	19	1,666	218	4,948
Redcliffe	57	182	114	1,339	78	2,340	16	1,065	265	4,926
Rockhampton	147	345	155	1,688	79	2,358	18	2,247	399	6,638
Roma	16	55	44	539	104	3,755	163	20,769	327	25,118
Rosewood	33	75	107	1,376	129	4,171	19	960	288	6,582
South Brisbane	120	321	89	894	32	921	7	228	248	2,364
Texas	17	49	17	183	5	169	7	831	46	1,232
Tiaro	55	164	107	1,209	78	2,362	15	1,379	255	5,114
Toowoomba	329	680	335	3,925	333	11,812	485	52,462	1,482	78,879
Warwick	49	137	101	1,138	148	5,188	273	40,238	571	46,701
Other Districts	836	2,072	713	7,696	242	7,119	66	6,482	1,857	23,369
Totals, 1903	3,106	8,336	5,358	63,848	4,619	149,996	3,374	399,513	16,457	621,693
„ 1898	2,892	7,840	4,832	58,717	4,032	128,294	1,800	214,436	13,556	409,287

This information had not been tabulated since 1898, so that the comparison covers a period of five years. During that period there has been a great increase in the number of holdings and in the areas cultivated thereon in the group 50 acres and upwards, the area having increased at a slightly greater ratio than the number of the holdings.

As the total of 16,457 cultivated holdings comprised an aggregate of 621,693 acres, the average size of cultivated area to each farm throughout the State was 37.8 acres. Holdings on which less than five acres of land are cultivated can hardly be designated farms, as it comprises so much suburban and town garden acreage, and if this group be excluded, the average area cultivated to each holding was 45.9 acres.

IRRIGATION.

But few, if any, tropical or semi-tropical countries can afford to dispense with irrigation as an aid to agriculture, whilst the artificial application of water is of great value even in temperate latitudes. Australia probably stands alone in that there are practically no snow-fed rivers from which ample supplies of surface water may be drawn, and that at the times of greatest need, when sources dependent upon rainfall begin to fail. In California, which possesses these advantages, and where irrigation is largely availed of, water is frequently applied in quantities that would be out of the question here as far too expensive, but there the facilities of procurement are such that it can be provided at a fraction only of the cost that would be inevitable here. It does not follow that because the natural advantages of Queensland are unequal to those of the American State mentioned that the comparatively small area now under irrigation cannot be very materially increased from the sources of supply already at hand, ignoring even the possibilities that would result from a much more extensive expenditure. It is probable that, for the present at least, comprehensive schemes of conservation of a national character will have to be held in abeyance, but much may be done in the meantime by individual or co-operative effort, fostered, if not assisted, by the State, to take full advantage of the means more readily available. In many places as yet unexploited, surface water, either in rivers or lagoons, could be utilised, whilst evidence continues to accumulate as to the extensive possibilities which exist in artesian and in subartesian supplies. That these are not without limit only necessitate the insistence of economic methods of application. By thorough and systematic, even "intense" cultivation, and careful distribution much may be effected with a comparatively small quantity of water. Subsoil irrigation requires the smallest quantity of water, but the necessary reticulation is rather expensive to establish.

As a season of considerable rainfall, the year 1903 could not be expected to witness much expansion of irrigation. The quantity of cultivated land to which water was artificially applied was 14,786 acres, against 14,344 acres in 1902, an increase of 442 acres only, but then in 1902 there was a great advance on the figures of any previous year. The following statement gives the acreage irrigated for each of the past ten years:—

D.				D.			
Year.		Acres Irrigated.		Year.		Acres Irrigated.	
1894	5,846	1899	...	...	6,311
1895	6,447	1900	...	...	6,969
1896	6,395	1901	...	...	6,526
1897	6,647	1902	...	...	14,344
1898	9,648	1903	...	...	14,786

Although irrigation was carried on in sixty petty sessions districts, yet three of them comprised 10,792 acres, or 73 per cent. of the total area. In forty-two districts the area irrigated exceeded ten acres. Further particulars are furnished in the following table:—

D a.
IRRIGATION.

Petty Sessions District in which Situated.	Number of Irrigators.	Acres Irrigated.	Original Source of Water Supply.	Means Employed for Procurement and Utilisation.	Crops Treated.
Allora ...	1	100	Dalrymple Creek ...	Gravitation, pumping, steam, drains ...	Wheat, maize, lucerne, vegetables
Aramac ...	4	18	Bore ...	Gravitation, drains ...	All crops
Ayr ...	30	3,622	Plantation Creek, tubular wells	Steam, pumping, gravitation, windmills, drains	Sugar-cane, maize, potatoes
Barcaldine ...	17	855	Bore ...	Gravitation, drains ...	Wheat, oats, maize, vegetables
Beaudesert ...	3	20	Logan River, Canungera Creek	Steam, pumping, flooding ...	Lucerne, maize, potatoes
Blackall ...	12	29	Bore, Barcoo River, lagoons	Gravitation, horse, pumping, drains ...	Fruit, vegetables
Bowen ...	29	286	Don River, Euri Creek, wells	Steam, pumping, windmills, drains, pipes	Fruit trees, vegetables
Brisbane ...	12	57	Kedron Brook, wells, Cabbage-tree Creek	Horse, pumping, windmill, pipes	Vegetables, fruit
Bundaberg ...	21	4,410	Burnett River, wells	Steam, pumping, gravitation, windmills, pipes	Sugar-cane, maize, fruit
Burke ...	3	13	Lagoons ...	Horse, pumping, flumes ...	Fruit, vegetables
Cairns ...	4	69	Barron River, creek	Steam, pumping, gravitation, race, drains	Maize, fruit, paspalum, green fodder
Cape River ...	6	21	Cape River, Bell's Creek	Horse, windmills, pumping, trenches	Fruit, vegetables
Charleville ...	5	18	Warrego River ...	Horse, pumping, pipes ...	Fruit, vegetables
Charters Towers ...	10	31	Wells ...	Steam ...	Fruit, vegetables
Cleveland ...	5	10	Wells ...	Pumping, pipes, windmills, hose	Fruit, vegetables
Cook ...	4	39	Springs ...	Gravitation, trenches ...	Maize, vegetables, fruit
Cunnamulla ...	3	2,760	Bore ...	Gravitation, drains ...	Wheat, lucerne, artificially sown grasses
Dugandan ...	1	10	Teviot Creek ...	Pumping, steam, pipes ...	Lucerne
Emerald ...	7	38	River, wells ...	Pumping, steam, trenches, pipes	Fruit, vegetables
Esk ...	3	37	Brisbane River, Lockyer Creek	Pumping, steam, pipes ...	Lucerne, maize, vegetables
Gatton ...	3	25	Blackfellow's Creek, wells	Pumping, steam, horse, windmills, pipes	Maize, potatoes, fruit, vegetables
Gympie ...	7	21	Mary River, Eel and Pie Creeks	Pumping, steam, horse, gravitation	Maize, vegetables
Hughenden ...	6	39	Wells ...	Pumping, steam, horse, races ...	Vegetables, fruit
Hungerford ...	2	153	Bore ...	Gravitation, drains, flooding ...	Wheat, lucerne, sorghum, maize
Ingham ...	1	70	Waste water from Sugar Factory	Pumping, steam, furrows ...	Sugar-cane
Inglewood ...	2	30	Macintyre Brook ...	Steam, pumps, flooding ...	Maize, lucerne, fruit
Ipswich ...	4	47	Bremer, and Brisbane Rivers, Warrill Creek	Gravitation, windmill, steam, pumps, pipes	Broom millet, potatoes, vegetables
Laidley ...	1	25	Lockyer Creek ...	Pumping, steam, pipes ...	Lucerne, maize
Longreach ...	15	30	Thomson River, Darr River, Cattle Creek	Horse, pumps, windmills, drains	Lucerne, vegetables
Mackay ...	8	514	Creek, wells ...	Pumping, steam, drains, flooding	Sugar-cane, fruit, vegetables
Maroochy ...	1	15	Wells ...	Windmill, pumping, pipes ...	Fruit trees, strawberries
Maryborough ...	7	65	Artesian bore ...	Hot air engine, pumping, pipes ...	Orange-trees
Mttaburra ...	4	85	Bore, river ...	Gravitation, pumping, steam, drains	Oats, potatoes, fruit trees
Nerang ...	2	21	Little Nerang Creek	Steam, pump, hose ...	Orange-trees
Norman ...	1	10	Smithburne River ...	Pumping, steam, pipes ...	Fruits, vegetables
Redcliffe ...	2	20	Pine River, wells ...	Pumping, steam, pipes ...	Lucerne, maize, potatoes
Rockhampton ...	43	675	Creek, Fitzroy River, wells	Gravitation, pumping, steam, horse, drains	Lucerne, potatoes, fruits, vegetables
Roma ...	1	16	Artesian bore ...	Gravitation, drains ...	Wheat, barley, sorghum
St. George ...	10	40	Balonne River, Barwon River, wells, lagoons	Pumping, steam, horse, drains, pipes, flooding	Wheat, sorghum, maize, fruit, vegetables
South Brisbane	2	11	Ekibin Creek, Broadwater	Pumping, steam, pipes, drains ...	Vegetables, fruit
Stanthorpe ...	7	25	Quartpot Creek, 13-mile Creek, springs	Gravitation, pumps, steam, horse, drains	Fruit, vegetables
Townsville ...	48	323	River, creek, lagoons, wells	Pumping, steam, drains ...	Fruits, vegetables
Other Districts (18)	30	83	Rivers, creeks, wells ...	Pumping, horse, pipes, steam, drains, hot air	Fruits, vegetables, oats, maize, lucerne, potatoes
Total ...	387	14,786			

In eight districts the sources of supply were either wholly or in part artesian, the aggregate area irrigated by bore water was 3,952 acres, or 27 per cent. of the total area. In two districts large acreages were thus provided with the moisture so desirable for cultivation in the far Western areas—namely, Cunnamulla 2,760 acres, and Barcaldine 855 acres. Wheat, oats, maize, vegetables, as well as lucerne and artificially-sown grasses, were the principal crops cultivated. At Hungerford an area of 153 acres was also supplied with water from the bore; in the other five districts the area treated was less than 100 acres.

In other districts the water was for the most part drawn from surface sources, such as rivers, creeks, and lagoons; in several instances pumping from open wells was resorted to, but, in a very few cases, notably at Ayr and Bundaberg, subartesian sources were tapped by means of tubular wells, and large supplies thus obtained from the subterranean flow occurring along the courses of the Burdekin and Burnett, extensions in the latter locality having been made during last year, Fairymead and Qunaba sugar areas being watered from this source.

The subject of irrigation at Ayr and Bundaberg is further dealt with in the section on "Sugar."

WHEAT.

After the disastrous results which attended the 1902 season's crop, the record of the experiences of last year affords especial satisfaction. The welcome rains which heralded the sowing season arrived somewhat late, and the planting was in many cases carried on beyond the usual date. This fact, in conjunction with a cool spring and early summer, resulted in the commencement of harvesting operations being delayed, and reaping became by no means general until well into November, and in many instances even later.

The total loss of the 1902 crop precluded the possibility of a seed supply from within the State. Steps had, however, been taken by private enterprise to secure grain from elsewhere for this purpose, chiefly from Victoria and South Australia. As the season for sowing approached it at once became apparent that private effort would be entirely inadequate to supply, in time, the quantity required. Moreover, the financial position of many of the farmers, crippled by the bad season recently experienced, would preclude them from purchasing seed in the ordinary way of business, and that some extraneous method must be adopted if the approaching favourable season was to be taken full advantage of. The Minister for Agriculture therefore deputed experts to proceed south and purchase seed wheat and barley on Government account, to be sold to farmers on such terms as to extend payment to beyond the harvest. This action would appear to have been fully justified by the results, as the largest area ever placed under this cereal in Queensland had been sown by the end of the planting season.

The earlier promise of the crop was most satisfactory; both the total output and the average yield was expected to greatly exceed all previous records, and although these bright anticipations were somewhat discounted before reaping, by rust, storms, and grasshoppers, hail causing some havoc, particularly in the northerly portion of the Downs, yet an aggregate return exceeding that of the best previous year—1901—by 44 per cent. was secured.

With so large a quantity of grain in view, the question of housing became of importance, and the construction of elevators was in some quarters strenuously insisted upon. The prospects of their success were apparently insufficient to induce their establishment as a commercial undertaking, whilst the Government did not consider itself justified in assuming so large a responsibility. Elevators erected at Darling Harbour have been but little utilised, and then chiefly for handling imports. The Minister for Railways, however, authorised the erection of sheds at several of the principal railway stations, to be specially devoted to the storage of grain on certain conditions. These have proved of great value in conserving the crop, and their construction much appreciated by the farmer.

There were 144,285 acres of land under wheat during 1903, of which 138,096 acres were reaped for grain, yielding 2,436,799 bushels, and 6,189 acres were mown for hay, and from the latter 10,665 tons were produced.

The following table gives the results of the wheat crop for each of the past five years:—

E.

Year.					Hay.		Grain.	
					Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Bushels.
1899	...	...	...	...	26,047	33,891	52,527	614,414
1900	...	...	...	...	8,019	9,337	79,304	1,194,088
1901	...	...	...	...	9,719	15,096	87,232	1,692,222
1902	...	...	...	...	867	1,049	1,880	6,165
1903	...	...	...	...	6,189	10,665	138,096	2,436,799

Passing the crop for 1902, which was a complete failure owing to the severity of the drought, in 1901 there were 87,232 acres reaped for a return of 1,692,222 bushels, so that the crop for 1903 exceeded that for 1901 by 50,864 acres and 744,577 bushels. On the other hand, 9,719 acres were cut for hay in 1901 for a return of 15,096 tons, thus exceeding the area and quantity so treated in 1903 by 3,530 acres and 4,431 tons.

Hitherto it has not been usual in Queensland to sow wheat with the intention of producing hay, the conversion to this use mostly being in consequence of some evidence of probable failure as a grain crop. Drought and rust were the two most frequent causes, especially the last named, as rust, though sufficiently severe to be fatal to wheat as a grain crop, would frequently only result in deteriorating the quality or perhaps diminishing the output of the same crop if converted into hay. In South Australia, on the other hand, where the average yield of grain per acre is much below that secured in this State, the relative prices ruling at the time for grain or hay respectively become important factors in determining to which use a portion of the crop shall be put.

Rust was at one time so virulent in Queensland as to threaten the future of wheat as an agricultural product. As an instance of what may be accomplished by judicious manipulation and selection of seed, Frazer, in "America at Work," says:—"In Minnesota, by hybridising Scotch Fife wheat, which only returned 16 bushels per acre, has been increased to 40 bushels per acre." It has, however, chiefly by the careful selection and treatment of the seed, been so controlled as to lose much of its terror, but is nevertheless generally in evidence to a greater or less extent. Dr. Cobb, the eminent authority on the pathology of the vegetable kingdom, who, in his capacity as an officer of the Agricultural Department of New South Wales, has devoted much attention to the study of rust, has expressed the opinion that continuous cropping without rotation is the most fruitful cause of the pest. Last year's experience in Queensland was calculated to show that on this occasion acclimatisation of the seed was an important element, as rust was most prevalent on areas sown with imported wheat.

The effect of rust and the extent to which it has prevailed in the State during the last ten years may be gathered from the figures contained in the following table:—

E a.
WHEAT (GRAIN) RETURNS.
RETURN FOR TEN YEARS.

				FREE FROM RUST.			AFFECTED WITH RUST.			TOTAL.		
				Area.	Produce.	Average per Acre.	Area.	Produce.	Average per Acre.	Area.	Produce.	Average per Acre.
				Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.
1894	...	...	...	20,596	422,973	20·54	7,395	122,212	16·53	27,991	545,185	19·48
1895	...	...	...	10,549	109,947	10·42	2,401	13,683	5·70	12,950	123,630	9·55
1896	...	...	...	34,164	598,052	17·51	596	3,202	6·33	34,670	601,254	17·34
1897	...	...	...	33,856	632,883	18·69	23,932	376,410	15·73	57,788	1,009,293	17·47
1898	...	...	...	43,342	573,000	13·22	2,877	34,012	11·82	46,219	607,012	13·13
1899	...	...	...	46,917	550,702	11·74	5,610	63,712	11·36	52,527	614,414	11·70
1900	...	...	...	79,227	1,193,193	15·06	77	895	11·62	79,304	1,194,088	15·06
1901	...	...	...	77,162	1,516,779	19·66	10,070	175,443	17·42	87,232	1,692,222	19·40
1902	...	...	...	1,875	6,122	3·27	5	43	8·60	1,880	6,165	3·28
1903	...	...	...	102,062	1,926,712	18·88	36,034	510,087	14·16	138,096	2,436,799	17·65
Average of Ten Years				44,975	753,036	16·74	8,891	129,970	14·62	53,866	883,006	16·39

Of the total area of 138,096 acres reaped for grain, 36,034 acres, or 26 per cent., were affected with rust. Exactly the same ratio of the total crop was attacked in 1894, and in only one year of the decade was there a larger relative area thus adversely affected—namely, in 1897, when 41 per cent. of the area suffered from rust. The result of rust on the actual quantity of grain produced is not very pronounced, but in addition to the reduced quantity the deterioration in the quality has also to be considered. For the whole ten years reviewed in the foregoing table the rusted area returned an average yield of 14·62 bushels to each acre, whilst the area free from rust returned 16·74, or an excess in favour of the latter of 2·12 bushels per acre. In 1903 the difference was considerably greater—4·72 bushels to the acre—the rusted portion returning 14·16 bushels and the healthy portion 18·88 bushels.

In no year of the last decennium has the average yield over the whole area under wheat quite reached 20 bushels per acre; 19·48 bushels were secured in 1894 and 19·40 in 1901. These were the only two years of the ten in which the average for last year—17·65 bushels—was exceeded. The average return for 1903 was 1·26 bushels better than the mean for the decade.

The following tables furnish information as to the production of wheat in each petty sessions district of the State:—

E b.

Petty Sessions Districts.				RESULTS.								
				FREE FROM RUST.			AFFECTED WITH RUST.			TOTAL.		
				Area.	Produce.	Average per Acre.	Area.	Produce.	Average per Acre.	Total Extent of Land Reaped for Grain.	Produce.	Average per Acre.
				Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.
EDGE CUMBEE.												
Townsville	...	...	...	1	16	16·00	1	6	6·00	2	22	11·00
Total Edgecumbe				1	16	16·00	1	6	6·00	2	22	11·00
PORT CURTIS.												
Rockhampton	...	...	...	2	36	18·00	1	15	15·00	3	51	17·00
Total Port Curtis				2	36	18·00	1	15	15·00	3	51	17·00
BURNETT AND WIDE BAY.												
Biggenden	...	...	...	3	44	14·67	3	13	4·33	6	57	9·50
Gayndah	...	...	...	138	2,999	21·73	29	185	6·38	167	3,184	19·07
Gympie	...	...	...	1	20	20·00	...	...	...	1	20	20·00
Nanango	...	...	...	764	14,252	18·65	395	4,367	11·06	1,159	18,619	16·06
Teningering	...	...	...	1	1	1·00	...	...	...	1	1	1·00
Total Burnett and Wide Bay				907	17,316	19·09	427	4,565	10·69	1,334	21,881	16·40
MORETON.												
Crow's Nest	...	...	...	547	10,574	19·33	511	6,711	13·13	1,058	17,285	16·34
Dugandan	...	...	...	14	97	6·93	2	16	8·00	16	113	7·06
Gatton	...	...	...	17	98	5·76	4	4	1·00	21	102	4·86
Harrisville	...	...	...	6	43	7·17	...	...	...	6	43	7·17
Laidley	...	...	...	2	8	4·00	...	...	...	2	8	4·00
Total Moreton				586	10,820	18·46	517	6,731	13·02	1,103	17,551	15·91

E b—continued.

Petty Sessions Districts.	RESULTS.								
	FREE FROM RUST.			AFFECTED WITH RUST.			TOTAL.		
	Area.	Produce.	Average per Acre.	Area.	Produce.	Average per Acre.	Total Extent of Land Reaped for Grain.	Produce.	Average per Acre.
DOWNS.	Aeres.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Aeres.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Aeres.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Allora	23,808	474,511	19·93	5,775	100,465	17·40	29,583	574,976	19·44
Condamine	198	4,607	23·27	1	32	32·00	199	4,639	23·31
Dalby	6,675	130,302	19·52	5,362	64,555	12·04	12,037	194,857	16·19
Goondiwindi	115	1,178	10·24	85	796	9·36	200	1,974	9·87
Highfields	3,158	63,262	20·03	1,908	31,892	16·71	5,066	95,154	18·78
Inglewood	822	8,361	10·17	35	100	2·86	857	8,461	9·87
Killarney	5,219	127,390	24·41	3,177	58,809	18·51	8,396	186,199	22·18
Stanthorpe	47	1,175	25·00	...	...	...	47	1,175	25·00
Texas	89	1,387	15·58	32	150	4·69	121	1,537	12·70
Toowoomba	23,729	423,526	17·85	6,104	78,760	12·90	29,833	502,286	16·84
Warwick	13,901	327,928	23·59	6,875	120,702	17·56	20,776	448,630	21·59
Total Downs	77,761	1,563,627	20·11	29,354	456,261	15·54	107,115	2,019,888	18·86
MARANOA.									
Mitchell	4,331	65,910	15·22	914	13,686	14·97	5,245	79,596	15·18
Roma	17,633	257,127	14·58	4,490	26,563	5·92	22,123	283,690	12·82
St. George	112	2,310	20·62	...	...	...	112	2,310	20·62
Surat	237	3,536	14·92	123	698	5·67	360	4,234	11·76
Yeulba	404	5,602	13·87	201	1,452	7·22	605	7,054	11·66
Total Maranoa	22,717	334,485	14·72	5,728	42,399	7·40	28,445	376,884	13·25
OTHER DISTRICTS.									
Barcaldine	75	330	4·40	...	...	...	75	330	4·40
Emerald ... ..	...	...	...	2	6	3·00	2	6	3·00
Springsure	12	42	3·50	...	...	...	12	42	3·50
Taroom	1	40	40·00	4	104	26·00	5	144	28·80
Total Other Districts	88	412	4·68	6	110	18·33	94	522	5·55
Total State	102,062	1,926,712	18·88	36,034	510,087	14·16	138,096	2,436,799	17·65

Of the total crop of 138,096 acres and 2,436,799 bushels, 107,115 acres and 2,019,888 bushels, or 78 per cent. of the area and 83 per cent. of the grain, were reaped and garnered in the petty sessions districts forming the Downs group. In this group the average return was 18·86 bushels per acre, the area free from rust, or 73 per cent. of the whole, yielding an average of 20·11 bushels. The best results in this group were obtained from a small area at Stanthorpe, where 47 acres yielded 1,175 bushels, an average of 25 bushels. This was entirely unaffected by rust. At Condamine 199 acres returned 4,639 bushels, or an average of 23·31 bushels to each acre; whilst from 8,396 acres at Killarney 186,199 bushels, or an average of 22·18 bushels, were obtained. The petty sessions district with the largest area under wheat was Toowoomba, but the return was below the average for the whole State, 29,833 acres yielding 502,286 bushels, or 16·84 to each acre. At Allora 574,976 bushels were garnered from 29,583 acres, or an average to each acre of 19·44 bushels. Warwick, with the third largest area in the group, returned 448,630 bushels from 20,776 acres, or an average of 21·59 bushels. Dalby had a greatly extended area under wheat in 1903—namely, 12,037 acres, from which 194,857 bushels were obtained.

The average yield for the Commonwealth, which produces about one-fiftieth of the wheat demand of the world, is from 6 to 7 bushels. Taking South Australia and Victoria, both countries of large production, the results in the former are generally, and with the latter occasionally, well below that average. In view of these facts, the averages secured in Queensland cannot but be considered satisfactory evidence of the suitability of the soil and climate to this crop.

The Maranoa group of districts cut for grain 28,445 acres for a return of 376,884 bushels, or an average of 13·25 bushels to each acre. In this locality, although a slightly smaller relative area was attacked by rust, the disease was more prejudicial in its effects, the clean area giving a return of 14·72 bushels, and that affected by rust 7·40 bushels, being only a little more than half of the former. Roma, the petty sessions district in which by far the largest proportion of the Maranoa wheat is grown, reaped 22,123 acres for 283,690 bushels—an average of 12·82 bushels per acre. Mitchell returned 79,596 bushels from 5,245 acres, or an average of 15·18 bushels. From a small area of 112 acres at St. George, which was entirely free from rust, an average return of 20·62 bushels was obtained. On the Burnett, wheat had, until 1903, only been grown in what might be termed experimental patches, but last year 1,334 acres were reaped, and 21,881 bushels of grain harvested—an average return of 16·40, or rather over 1 bushel below the mean for the whole State. The bulk was grown at Nanango, although from a small area of 167 acres at Gayndah a good return of 19·07 bushels per acre was obtained. Practically the whole of the cultivation of wheat in Moreton is confined to the petty sessions district of Crow's Nest, where 1,058 acres produced 17,285 bushels, or an average of 16·34 bushels per acre. Of "Other Districts"—that is, districts so little within the cultivation line as not to be comprised in any specially named group—Barcaldine had 75 acres under wheat for the unsatisfactory return of 330 bushels, or an average of 4·40 bushels per acre; whilst at Taroom, from 5 acres 144 bushels were obtained, or an average equal to 28·80 bushels to each acre. One of the 5 acres was stated to have returned 40 bushels, whilst in several districts isolated cases of individual farms yielding averages of from 40 to 45 bushels per acre were recorded. Samples of Australasian wheat, exhibited in San Francisco with a view to determining their quality for export to the United States, were pronounced by experts after a critical inspection to be superior to the American grain. One sample from Queensland (Smart's Early) was declared to be the "best ever inspected from any country at any time," and worth 4s. 1d. to 4s. 3d. per bushel. Queensland wheats generally were valued in bulk at 3s. 10½d. per bushel, and a strong desire to obtain similar grain for seed was expressed, it being stated that there would be a large market for a wheat of such specially high milling quality.

There were 144,285 acres planted with wheat of which, in addition to the 138,096 acres reaped for grain already dealt with, 6,189 acres, or a little over 4 per cent. only, were mown for hay. Besides these a small area was utilised green for cattle feed, but this is not dealt with as part of the wheat cultivation, but under "Green Forage."

In the following table full information is furnished as to the area under wheat for hay :—

E.c.

WHEAT (HAY) RETURNS, 1903.

Petty Sessions Districts.	FREE FROM RUST.			AFFECTED WITH RUST.			TOTAL.		
	Area.	Produce.	Average per Acre.	Area.	Produce.	Average per Acre.	Area.	Produce.	Average per Acre.
ROCKINGHAM.									
Cairns	2	4	2·00	...	...	...	2	4	2·00
Herberton	3	2	0·66	...	...	...	3	2	0·66
Total Rockingham	5	6	1·20	...	...	...	5	6	1·20
EDGE CUMBE.									
Mackay	5	4	0·80	...	...	...	5	4	0·80
Total Edgecumbe	5	4	0·80	...	...	...	5	4	0·80
PORT CURTIS.									
Gladstone ... ..	...	...	...	5	10	2·00	5	10	2·00
Rockhampton	1	2	2·00	30	80	2·67	31	82	2·65
Total Port Curtis	1	2	2·00	35	90	2·57	36	92	2·56
BURNETT AND WIDE BAY.									
Bundaberg	1	1	1·00	...	...	...	1	1	1·00
Eidsvold	19	42	2·21	10	21	2·10	29	63	2·17
Gayndah	13	59	4·54	7	5	0·71	20	64	3·20
Gin Gin ... ..	...	...	...	1	1	1·00	1	1	1·00
Gympie	7	12	1·71	...	...	...	7	12	1·71
Maryborough ... ..	...	...	...	2	4	2·00	2	4	2·00
Nanango	67	137	2·04	79	114	1·44	146	251	1·72
Teningering	5	11	2·20	...	...	...	5	11	2·20
Tiaro	2	4	2·00	2	2	1·00	4	6	1·50
Total Burnett and Wide Bay	114	266	2·33	101	147	1·46	215	413	1·92
MORETON.									
Beaudesert	6	15	2·50	...	...	...	6	15	2·50
Brisbane	3	4	1·33	...	...	...	3	4	1·33
Crow's Nest	27	41	1·52	34	57	1·68	61	98	1·61
Dugandan	22	48	2·18	9	13	1·44	31	61	1·97
Esk	51	64	1·25	...	...	...	51	64	1·25
Gatton	137	245	1·79	277	462	1·67	414	707	1·71
Harrisville	23	48	2·09	...	...	...	23	48	2·09
Ipswich	9	19	2·11	1	3	3·00	10	22	2·20
Laidley	41	68	1·66	35	77	2·20	76	145	1·91
Marburg	11	21	1·91	3	2	0·66	14	23	1·64
Nerang	3	6	2·00	2	2	1·00	5	8	1·60
Rosewood	12	23	1·92	3	6	2·00	15	29	1·93
Woodford ... ..	...	...	...	2	1	0·50	2	1	0·50
Total Moreton	345	602	1·74	366	623	1·70	711	1,225	1·72
DOWNES.									
Allora	272	473	1·74	465	528	1·14	737	1,001	1·36
Condamine	26	79	3·04	1	1	1·00	27	80	2·96
Dalby	129	293	2·27	119	256	2·15	248	549	2·21
Goondiwindi	206	474	2·30	215	419	1·95	421	893	2·12
Highfields	151	231	1·53	148	186	1·26	299	417	1·39
Inglewood	82	192	2·34	17	38	2·24	99	230	2·32
Southwood ... ..	...	...	...	20	50	2·50	20	50	2·50
Stanthorpe	84	193	2·30	...	...	...	84	193	2·30
Texas	61	124	2·03	51	86	1·69	112	210	1·87
Toowoomba	355	621	1·75	223	363	1·63	578	984	1·70
Warwick	96	168	1·75	17	24	1·41	113	192	1·70
Total Downs	1,462	2,848	1·95	1,276	1,951	1·53	2,738	4,799	1·75
MARANOVA.									
Bollon	47	42	0·89	...	...	...	47	42	0·89
Mitchell	270	515	1·91	37	60	1·62	307	575	1·87
Roma	586	1,399	2·39	332	424	1·28	918	1,823	1·99
St. George	343	721	2·10	...	...	...	343	721	2·10
Surat	26	47	1·81	27	54	2·00	53	101	1·91
Yeulba	11	33	3·00	...	...	...	11	33	3·00
Total Maranoa	1,283	2,757	2·15	396	538	1·36	1,679	3,295	1·96
OTHER DISTRICTS.									
Banana	5	30	6·00	...	...	...	5	30	6·00
Barcaldine	3	5	1·66	18	45	2·50	21	50	2·38
Charleville	17	17	1·00	...	...	...	17	17	1·00
Clermont	176	23	0·13	...	...	...	176	23	0·13
Cunnamulla	190	430	2·26	...	...	...	190	430	2·26
Emerald	20	5	0·25	...	...	...	20	5	0·25
Hungerford	213	173	0·81	...	...	...	213	173	0·81
Springsure	131	56	0·43	10	1	0·10	141	57	0·40
Taroom	15	42	2·80	2	4	2·00	17	46	2·71
Total Other Districts	770	781	1·01	30	50	1·67	800	831	1·04
Total State	3,985	7,266	1·82	2,204	3,399	1·54	6,189	10,665	1·72

Of the total area mown for hay 3,985 acres or 64 per cent. were free from rust, and 2,204 acres or 36 per cent. were affected by this disease. So that evidently rust was not the principal cause for the conversion of the crops into hay. In many cases it was done in consequence of the crop having been flattened by storms and rain. The average yield of hay obtained from each acre was 1·72 tons, the rusty area yielding 1·54 tons to each acre, and the clean area 1·82 tons. These figures represented a better average return than had been obtained in any year of the previous decade. In 1901, the next best year, 1·55 tons were obtained from the whole acreage, or practically the same as from the rusted area in 1903. A number of districts of considerable areas averaged returns of from 2½ to 3 tons to the acre, so that in such cases at least, even if driven by the pressure of circumstances to sacrifice their grain, the farmer certainly recouped a considerable portion of his loss; moreover, the total area utilised for hay—less than 5 per cent. of the whole crop—was much below what was by many believed would be the case at the time of harvest.

BREADSTUFFS.

Australia is now producing more than sufficient for its own requirements of the two chief items of consumption—bread and meat. Queensland takes a forward place as an exporter of the latter, but has not quite reached the point of supplying her own needs with respect to flour, although the crop of wheat for last year approached very closely to that consummation. The imports of breadstuffs for 1904, in consequence of the abundant crop of 1903, will no doubt be largely reduced; but the failure of the wheat crop for 1902, owing to the unprecedented drought, resulted in the importation of greatly larger quantities of both wheat and flour than in either of the two immediately preceding years. The imports and exports of breadstuffs for 1903 were as follow:—

E d.
BREADSTUFFS.

ITEM.	IMPORTED.		EXPORTED.		NET IMPORTS.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£		£
Wheat (centals)	603,341	218,078	47	19	603,294	218,059
Flour (centals)	714,617	399,795	9,724	6,224	704,893	393,571
Biscuits (lb.)	552,279	18,535	87,833	2,088	464,446	16,447
Total ... ..	...	636,408	...	8,331	...	628,077

Deducting the exports from the imports, it is seen that wheat to the value of £218,059, and flour to the value of £393,571, and biscuits to the value of £16,447, were paid for by the State; the last-named is small in amount, but nevertheless affected three industries—the biscuit-maker, the miller, and the farmer. Flour was a loss to the miller and the farmer, whilst the importation of wheat was loss to the farmer alone, who also participated in the loss on the other articles. The net imports of these three items for each of the last three years were as follow:—

E e.

—		1901.		1902.		1903.	
Wheat	...	163,764 centals	= £43,605	125,163 centals	= £43,990	603,294 centals	= £218,059
Flour	...	618,290 „	= 238,729	699,432 „	= 317,709	704,893 „	= 393,571
Biscuits	...	226,871 lb.	= 9,043	424,892 lb.	= 15,414	464,446 lb.	= 16,447
		£291,377		£377,113		£628,077	

Breadstuffs to the value of £628,077 were imported into Queensland in 1903 in excess of that exported, which exceeded the value for 1902, when £377,113 worth were imported, by £250,964. In 1901 the value of net imports was £291,377, or £85,736 less than in the following year. The imports of wheat for 1903 were augmented by the necessity of providing from this source for the seed requirements of the State.

Any attempt to base the requirements of the State with respect to wheat on one year's transactions would be entirely fallacious, as outside the question of stocks, the production of one year goes into the next year's consumption, and imports are influenced by the crop reports whilst the grain is still in the field. Over a series of years, however, it is found that the requirements for all purposes work out at about 6½ to 6¾ bushels of wheat per capita, flour being converted into terms of wheat.

Taking the consumption for food at 6½ bushels per head of the population, and allowing 125,000 bushels as the requirement for seed, it is seen that a supply of 3,476,000 bushels approximately is needed to meet the demand of the State at the present time, so that the crop for 1903 fell short of this by, say, 1,000,000 bushels, or about 2 bushels per head of the population.

The net imports and the production of wheat and its equivalent for each of the past five years is shown in the following table :—

E f.

IMPORTS IN EXCESS OF EXPORTS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR, THE LATTER CONVERTED INTO TERMS OF THE FORMER.

Year.							Imported over Exported.	Grown in Queensland.	Total.
							Net Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
1899	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,326,592	614,414	2,941,006
1900	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,346,447	1,194,088	3,540,535
1901	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,820,240	1,692,222	3,512,462
1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,957,205	6,165	1,963,370
1903	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,767,723	2,436,799	5,204,522

NOTE :—For the purposes of this Statement the flour imported has been converted into wheat on the basis of 1 cental of flour = 2½ bushels of wheat.

The net imports and production for 1899 were about equal to the requirements of the population at that date. Heavy imports of American grain were received during that and the following year to keep the rollers of the local mills going. The greatly increased production for 1900 and for 1901 resulted in a restriction of import for those years, the failure of the crop for 1902 again necessitating the large importations of 1903, whilst the large production of the latter year will inevitably check imports for the current season.

There were seventeen mills engaged in the conversion of wheat into flour during 1903. Of these six were in Brisbane, three in Toowoomba, and eight elsewhere. The following table furnishes particulars as to their output, &c. :—

E g.

District.	Number of Establishments.	Number of Hands Employed.	Number of Stones.	Number of Rollers.	Wheat Treated.	FLOUR MADE.		MEAL MADE.		BRAN AND POLLARD.	
						Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Bushels.	Value.
			Pairs.	Sets.	Bushels.		£		£		£
Metropolitan ...	6	98	7	55	652,572	13,450	156,891	49	566	596,220	26,378
Toowoomba ...	3	14	...	35	91,633	6,466	77,770	...	...	84,444	2,243
Elsewhere ...	8	37	3	53	195,603	3,822	46,335	52	764	100,931	10,518
	17	149	10	143	939,808	23,733	280,996	101	1,330	781,595	39,139

At some of the above establishments but little wheat is treated, the factories being principally devoted to treating other grain. Information respecting Grain Mills will be found in the Statistical Register.

These mills gave employment to 149 hands, the machinery in use comprising ten pairs of stones and 143 sets of rollers. There were 939,808 bushels of wheat treated, from which was obtained 23,738 tons of flour of a value of £280,996, besides meal and bran, &c., worth £40,469.

A marked feature of the 1903 wheat crop is the large expansion in area sown in the Western district. The Downs alone, where the profitable production of wheat has long passed beyond a question of experiment, would, with the area of first-class agricultural land still available, admit of an enormously increased output. With the admission to the possible wheat areas, of land shown by the experience of 1903 as suited to its production, the extent available may well be stated as practically illimitable. It is considered that 20 inches of rainfall per annum, if suitably distributed, provides sufficient moisture for wheat. The western wheat district of South Australia averages about 17 inches. The Western districts of Queensland have a heavier average rainfall than some of the areas of the Southern and Western States, where wheat is grown in large quantities, so that the wheat land in this State may be considered capable of very large expansion.

The principle introduced with respect to the sugar industry has been extended, to encourage the production of wheat by facilitating the establishment of central flourmills in suitable localities by the grant of Government loan at reasonable interest. Two mills have been established under this inducement, and the following statement contains particulars of, and the position with respect to, the advances so made :—

Number of mills to which advances made	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
					£	s.	d.
Amount advanced to 31st December, 1903	...	...	...	...	3,438	0	0
Indebtedness to State	...	...	...	...	3,440	0	8
Including interest due but not paid	...	...	...	...	103	15	2

BARLEY.

Although representing, as regards area and production, a much smaller commercial value than maize, yet it may in a sense be considered as standing second in importance amongst cereal crops, offering as it does such extended possibilities with respect to export. It has been asserted at times, more particularly a few years since, that Queensland barley was not well adapted to the maltsters' use. The experience of later years has dispelled that assertion, and quite recent expert reports from the United Kingdom, with respect to a trial shipment, considerably exceeding sample bulk, were most favourable; the Queensland grain was stated to be at least equal to any received from Australia, and of a quality worth, in the season, from 36s. to 38s. per quarter. It arrived in London a little late, and at the moment of writing advices are to hand that the consignment had been quitted at 30s. The season is in March, a date by which the Queensland crop can be easily placed on the British market, consequently the outlook in this direction is hopeful. In the grain mart at San Francisco, samples of Queensland barley

for malting purposes recently created much attention. It was stated that the Cape barley shown was superior to the Californian malting, and that "Chevalier" would readily fetch 3s. 1½d. per bushel. The malsters there considered it a waste of good grain to use for feed so superior a material as Cape barley submitted for their inspection. Parcels of locally-grown non-malting barley have also recently been shipped to less distant markets for use as poultry or cattle feed. Purchases were made on the Downs at prices ranging from 2s. 6d. to 2s. 10d., a figure that many farmers assert gives a better return than wheat.

The total area sown with barley grain during each of the past two years is shown in the following table:—

F.

										1902.	1903.
										Acres.	Acres.
Reaped for Grain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	430	22,881
Mown for Hay	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	660
Cut for Green Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,093	2,993
										1,573	26,534

The increased area planted no doubt resulted in part from the action of the Government in purveying seed in the same manner and on like terms adopted with regard to wheat; upwards of 12,000 bushels were thus distributed.

Of the 26,534 acres sown in 1903, 22,881 or 86 per cent. were reaped for grain; the other 14 per cent., consisting of 660 acres mown for hay, and 2,993 acres cut for green food. These areas are dealt with under "Hay" and "Green Forage," attention being for the present confined to the grain acreage only, respecting which further particulars are furnished in the following statement:—

F a.

Year.								Area for Grain.	Produce.	Average Produce per Acre.
								Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.
1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	430	3,595	8·36
1903	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22,881	510,557	22·31
Increase in 1903								22,451	506,962	13·95
Decrease in 1903								...	...	...

The crop for 1902 was almost a failure, so that there would not be much significance in a comparison with that year's figures. In 1903 the 22,881 acres reaped returned 510,557 bushels, by far the largest barley production ever recorded in the State, although the average yield per acre obtained—22.31 bushels—has been exceeded on three occasions during the past decade—namely, in 1894, when 26.67 bushels were obtained; in 1897, when the average was 24 bushels; and in 1901, when it was 23.53 bushels. Of the total area of barley reaped in 1903, 16,750 acres, or 73 per cent., were planted with malting varieties of grain; the proportion in 1902 was 38 per cent. The bulk of the production was confined to the Darling Downs district. The following table furnishes information on both heads:—

F b.

District.	Malting Grain.			Other Varieties Grain.		
	Acres.	Bushels.	Average per Acre.	Acres.	Bushels.	Average per Acre.
Allora	4,003	99,566	24·87	1,378	38,796	28·15
Crow's Nest	255	6,804	26·68	68	1,801	26·49
Dalby	524	9,745	18·60	746	11,238	15·06
Highfields	1,030	26,251	25·49	128	3,247	25·37
Killarney	1,085	24,856	22·91	216	4,646	21·51
Toowoomba	6,522	151,647	23·25	2,074	40,386	19·47
Warwick	3,147	60,056	19·09	1,384	26,262	18·98
All Other Districts	184	3,157	17·16	137	2,099	15·32
Total State	16,750	382,082	22·81	6,131	128,475	20·95

The above table gives details respecting all districts in which the area under barley exceeded 100 acres.

CAPE BARLEY.—The designation by which barley of the non-malting varieties are generally recognised, was reaped from 6,131 acres, and 128,475 bushels of grain were secured, or an average per acre of 20.95 bushels. Toowoomba, Warwick, and Allora were the districts of principal production, the areas being—2,074 acres, 1,384 acres, and 1,378 acres; the crop—40,386 bushels, 26,262 bushels, and 38,796 bushels; and the averages per acre—19.47 bushels, 18.98 bushels, and 28.15 bushels each respectively.

MALTING BARLEY.—Of the total area, 6,522 acres, or 39 per cent., were reaped in Toowoomba district, for a return of 151,647 bushels, equal to an average of 23.25 bushels to each acre; 4,003 acres, or 24 per cent., were grown at Allora for 99,566 bushels, equal to an average per acre of 24.87 bushels. Other districts in which the area exceeded 1,000 acres were—Warwick, with 3,147 acres; Killarney, with 1,085 acres; and Highfield, with 1,030 acres; from which were obtained returns of 60,056 bushels, 24,856 bushels, and 26,251 bushels respectively, equal to averages of 19.09 bushels, 22.91 bushels, and 25.49 bushels, the last average being the best obtained in any district in which the area exceeded 1,000 acres. The average yield for the whole State for malting barley was 22.81 bushels per acre.

Barley matures quite at the end of the year, so that any malting taking place in 1903 would have to be done with grain grown in the previous year, or else imported. The crop in 1902—namely, 1,749 bushels—was so small that all the malting was of the imported article, as is shown in the following table:—

F c.

Year.										Made from Imported Barley.	Made from Queensland Barley.	Total Malt Made.
										Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
1899	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42,851	19,420	62,271
1900	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,337	57,393	72,730
1901	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,000	69,000	70,000
1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,500	75,500	85,000
1903	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67,500	...	67,500

In 1901 practically all the malt manufactured was from Queensland-grown grain, whilst in the following year the proportion of home-grown grain used was seven-eighths of the whole.

The quantity of barley malted by no means measures the possible market within the State, as the quantity of malt imported always considerably exceeds that manufactured. The relation between malt made and imported during the past ten years is shown in the following table:—

F d.

Year.										Malt made in Queensland.	Year.										Mal Imported.
										Bushels.											Bushels.
1894-95 (financial)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,537	1894	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	127,188
1895-96 ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,988	1895	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	153,843
1896-97 ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,400	1896	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	147,474
1897-98 ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34,589	1897	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	156,613
1898 (calendar)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32,629	1898	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	129,811
1899 ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62,271	1899	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	127,469
1900 ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72,730	1900	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	134,098
1901 ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70,000	1901	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	121,424
1902 ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	85,000	1902	...	45,507	centals	=						119,755
1903 ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67,500	1903	...	35,933	ditto	=						94,561

For the whole decade the average annual demand for malt has been—ignoring fractional exports—176,888 bushels, so that the production of malting barley for 1903 was so much in excess of local requirements as to imperatively demand a further outlet.

Quite recently important developments have taken place with respect to the malting industry here. A large British firm have acquired the business and premises of one of our leading maltsters, and intend at once to greatly extend the factory and manufacture malt on a large scale, with a view to supply the Australian trade.

The quantity of beer brewed and malt used in the State during each of the past five years is shown in the following table:—

F e.

Year.											Beer.	Malt.
											Gallons.	Bushels.
1899	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,422,194	181,092
1900	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,738,190	192,668
1901	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,325,314	188,100
1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*5,333,202	170,610
1903	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	†4,489,958	147,591

* Including waste 260,038 gallons. † Including waste 165,622 gallons.

MAIZE.

Although relatively of less importance than wheat, and perhaps also of barley, as not offering such prospects as a directly exportable product, is nevertheless a staple crop from one end of the State to the other, adapting itself to the varying climatic conditions which of necessity obtain over so wide a range of latitude. Many a now prosperous farmer can look back to the days of his early struggles when the easily-planted, quickly-grown, and readily-marketed crop of corn was the one thing that stood between himself and failure, and fully recognises that to it he owes the subsequent possibilities that have been his, and yet probably no one of the many crops grown to-day receive such scant treatment at the hands of the cultivator. What other crop is planted twenty years or more in succession, sometimes even twice in the same year on the same land, with no fertilisation and indifferent cultivation, and still be expected to yield a satisfactory return? Is there any wonder that whilst virgin soil returns 50 to 70 bushels—on occasion even records of 90 to 100 bushels per acre—averages of 15 to 25 bushels only are frequently the result from farms that have been in occupation for any considerable period. It is evident that there is room for improvement in the methods of cultivation adopted in Queensland, especially with respect to maize, for whilst by far the highest average yields are obtained in the North, and at the same

time New South Wales and Victoria are able to obtain average yields which exceed those for Queensland by 200 and 400 per cent. respectively, it is evident that climatic conditions, as regards latitude, cannot be pleaded as a reason for the deficiency. The following statement gives the most recent figures available for the maize crop in the two States mentioned:—

State.	Year.	Acres.	Yield.	Average.
New South Wales	1903-4	227,404	6,496,494	28·6
Victoria	1902-3	10,906	750,524	69·0

The average yield for Victoria for 1901-2 was 61·4 bushels.

The experience of the maize crop for 1903 was most unsatisfactory. In many places the first crop was a complete failure, the rains coming too late to save it, and although the area under maize was greater than in any previous year, the production has been exceeded on several occasions. In 1903 there were 133,099 acres under maize for grain, from which a return of 1,923,623 bushels were obtained. This large quantity, however, was further supplemented by a net import over export of 24,034 centals, of a declared value of £6,876.

Prospects would now appear to be offering of converting this into an export crop. If this should prove to be attainable, and satisfactory prices be realised, the production of this grain would certainly be rapidly extended. The last Canadian mailboat took a trial shipment on account of Messrs. Denham Brothers, which it is to be hoped will be the forerunner of a new line of export trade.

The following table gives particulars of this crop for the past five years:—

G.

Year.								Grain.		Average per Acre.
								Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.
1899	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	110,489	1,965,598	17·79
1900	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	127,974	2,456,647	19·20
1901	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	116,983	2,569,118	21·96
1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89,923	1,033,329	11·49
1903	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	133,099	1,923,623	14·45

Except for 1902, when a mean return of 11·49 bushels resulted, the average obtained for the whole State last year—14·45 bushels—was the poorest recorded for the past fifteen years at least. The best average return for the past ten years—26·49 bushels—was garnered in 1896.

The averages obtained in different parts of the State vary greatly. The following table furnishes information on this point:—

G a.

MAIZE GRAIN.

Division or Group.	Acres.	Yield.	Average.	Proportion of Area to whole Area of Maize for Grain.
		Bushels.		
Rockingham... ..	9,331	285,841	30·63	7·01
Edgumbe	3,230	51,152	15·84	2·42
Port Curtis	1,680	42,886	25·53	1·26
Burnett and Wide Bay	25,719	481,114	18·71	19·32
Moreton	61,607	805,840	13·08	46·29
Downs	29,508	219,189	7·43	22·17
Maranoa	393	5,783	14·72	0·30
Other Districts	1,631	31,818	19·51	1·23
TOTAL STATE	133,099	1,923,623	14·45	100·00

Of the total area under maize 46 per cent. was planted in the Moreton group of districts; here an average was obtained—13·08 bushels per acre—a little below the mean for the whole State; 22 per cent. of the area, or 29,508 acres, were cultivated on the Downs, for an average yield of 7·43 bushels only. A somewhat better return of 18·71 bushels per acre was obtained from the Burnett and Wide Bay, whilst fairly good average returns of 31 bushels and 26 bushels per acre were obtained respectively in Rockingham and Port Curtis, but these groups comprised such small ratios of the total maize area as to

have little effect on the general average production. The following table furnishes details with respect to the maize crop of the last two years in each petty sessions district in which the area exceeded 1,000 acres —

G b.

Petty Sessions District.	Area Planted for Grain.			Yield of Grain.			Average Yield per Acre.		
	In 1902.	In 1903.	Increase or Decrease —	In 1902.	In 1903.	Increase or Decrease —	In 1902.	In 1903.	Increase or Decrease —
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Gatton	6,187	12,021	5,834	55,493	169,008	113,515	8·97	14·06	5·09
Laidley	7,324	9,176	1,852	52,103	98,824	46,721	7·11	10·77	3·66
Allora	5,011	8,682	3,671	34,735	54,154	19,419	6·93	6·24	— 0·69
Bundaberg	1,583	8,035	6,452	23,073	195,808	172,735	14·58	24·37	9·79
Toowoomba	3,013	7,945	4,932	31,294	77,049	45,755	10·39	9·70	— 0·69
Dugandan	4,463	7,364	2,901	39,130	99,986	60,856	8·77	13·53	4·81
Highfields	5,189	6,780	1,591	37,058	50,275	13,217	7·14	7·42	0·28
Crow's Nest	4,176	6,263	2,087	44,575	60,854	16,279	10·67	9·72	— 0·95
Nanango	3,448	5,892	2,444	31,951	47,033	15,082	9·27	7·98	— 1·29
Herberton	4,040	5,033	993	92,992	182,899	89,907	23·02	36·34	13·32
Marburg	4,232	3,687	— 545	33,678	15,311	— 18,367	7·96	4·15	— 3·81
Warwick	9,171	3,440	— 5,731	49,845	11,070	— 38,775	5·44	3·22	— 2·22
Beaudesert	2,018	3,390	1,372	31,706	53,943	22,237	15·71	15·91	0·20
Harrisville	1,424	3,160	1,736	9,067	31,368	22,301	6·37	9·93	3·56
Redcliffe	1,846	2,522	676	22,320	37,990	15,670	12·09	15·06	2·97
Rosewood	1,532	2,505	973	17,245	16,422	— 823	11·26	6·56	— 4·70
Cairns	2,613	2,489	— 124	75,494	65,259	— 10,235	28·89	26·22	— 2·67
Nerang	2,281	2,471	190	59,078	54,007	— 5,071	25·90	21·86	— 4·04
Gin Gin	1,194	2,405	1,211	13,045	41,064	28,017	10·93	17·07	6·14
Esk	1,724	2,359	635	13,684	44,750	31,066	7·94	18·97	11·03
Biggenden	433	2,339	1,906	3,962	53,518	49,556	9·15	22·83	13·73
Childers	1,537	2,106	569	35,011	34,834	— 177	22·78	16·54	— 6·24
Logan	1,037	2,004	967	16,607	44,660	27,993	16·01	22·29	6·28
Gympie	1,190	1,928	738	21,925	43,492	21,567	18·42	22·56	4·14
Ayr	529	1,468	939	6,014	23,620	17,606	11·37	16·09	4·72
All other Districts	12,728	17,635	4,907	182,244	316,425	134,243	14·32	17·94	3·62
Total State	89,923	133,099	43,176	1,033,329	1,923,623	890,294	11·49	14·45	2·96

In only three districts was the area less in 1903 than in 1902—namely, Warwick, Marburg, and Cairns. The greatest area in any one district, nearly one-tenth of that for the whole State, was planted at Gatton, 12,021 acres for a return of 169,008 bushels, equal to 14·06 bushels per acre. At Bundaberg and Herberton areas of 8,035 acres and 5,033 acres returned larger productions than Gatton—namely, 195,808 bushels and 182,899 bushels, furnishing respectively average yields of 24·37 bushels and 36·34 bushels to each acre. The latter was the best average return for any of the districts recorded in the table.

It is doubtful whether the fullest use is yet made of what may be called the by-products of the maize crop. It has been asserted by persons qualified to express an opinion that both the stalk and the shelled cob possess considerable value as a food for live stock, and yet the extent to which they are so utilised in Queensland is fractional only.

OATS.

As a grain crop oats are but little in evidence in Queensland. The demand for this cereal is comparatively limited. The production of oatmeal or its allied products, and as feed for racehorses, are the uses to which it is chiefly put. Oats are, however, much cultivated as hay and green fodder crops, especially the latter. The total sown and the results are shown in the following table:—

H.

Oats.		1901.	1902.	1903.
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Reaped for grain ... ..	...	1,535	78	2,808
Mown for hay ... ..	...	17,167	2,619	19,523
Cut for green fodder ... ..	...	4,561	1,462	1,897
Total ... ..	...	23,263	4,159	24,228

Of the 24,228 acres planted, 2,808 acres, or 12 per cent., were reaped for grain; 19,523 acres, or 80 per cent., were mown for hay; and 1,897 acres, or 8 per cent., were cut for forage. The last two areas will be dealt with under their respective headings of "Hay" and "Green Fodder."

Particulars respecting this crop for the past two years are furnished in the following table:—

H a.

Year.		Area for Grain.	Produce.	Average Produce per Acre.
		Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.
1902 ... ..	...	78	520	6·67
1903 ... ..	...	2,808	70,713	25·18
Increase in 1903 ... ..	...	2,730	70,193	18·51
Decrease in 1903 ... ..	...	...	...	...

From the area reaped during 1903, 70,713 bushels of grain were garnered, or an average yield of 25.18 bushels.

In 1901 the average yield was 27.50 bushels per acre; with this exception the return obtained in 1903 was the greatest, both actual and relative, recorded for ten years.

The average annual demand for oats, based on the averages of the experiences of five years, is shown in the following table:—

H b.

ANNUAL ACQUISITION by the STATE of OATEN GRAIN and its PRODUCTS expressed in TERMS of OATS.*

	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	Average of the Quinquennium.
Net Imports { Oats (Grain) ...	Bushels. 186,333	Bushels. 194,581	Bushels. 135,365	Bushels. 266,463	Bushels. 134,443	Bushels. 183,437
{ Products of Oats ...	86,518	87,367	102,800	139,059	93,200	101,789
Production, Oats (Grain) ...	10,712	7,855	42,208	520	70,713	26,402
Total ...	283,563	289,803	280,373	406,042	298,356	311,628

* Oatmeal converted into Oats on an approved basis.

The products of oats imported have been converted into oats on an approved basis. From this table it will be seen that the average annual requirements for the past five years was 311,628 bushels. Of these, 285,226, or 92 per cent., were imported, either in the grain or under some other form, such as oatmeal, hulled oats, &c., so that Queensland farmers might exceed their production of the past five years by at least ten times before fulfilling home requirements.

Last year, however, the proportion of imported to total acquirement was 76 per cent. only. Except in 1901 and 1903 the local production of oats was fractional only, whilst in 1902 the crop was a complete failure. There were on an average during the quinquennium preparations of oats in the shape of oatmeal, &c., imported annually, representative of 101,789 bushels of grain, leaving 209,839 bushels of the grain itself imported or produced. Of a portion of this latter an average of 714.4 tons was converted annually into oatmeal, &c., within the State, equivalent to about 36,000 bushels of oats. Of the total average annual consumption of this cereal—namely, 311,628 bushels—137,789 bushels, or 44 per cent., were used for human food. The amount sent out of Queensland last year for the purchase of *oaten* grain and its products was £37,411.

RICE.

For the time being at least this cereal has practically ceased to be cultivated in this State. The following table shows the extent of rice production for the last six years:—

I.

Year.										Acres.	Bushels.	Average Bushels.
1898	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	863	38,133	44.19
1899	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	319	9,275	29.08
1900	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	271	6,870	25.35
1901	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	205	5,222	25.47
1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	1,093	28.76
1903	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49	1,322	27.00

There were 863 acres under this grain in 1898, whilst the areas sown for each of last two years were 38 acres and 49 acres respectively. Although the average yields of the last five years have fallen far short of that for 1898, yet the results even in these years of 25 to 29 bushels to each acre are considerably greater than that for other grain crops, whilst the product is certainly not of less value, and is protected by an import duty of 3s. 4d. per cential.

The labour connected with the cultivation and harvesting of swamp paddy is considerable, and it would seem that attention should be drawn either to the production of the Upland variety, or by the cultivation of suitably located areas, so as to arrange for the diverting of the water off the land when planting and harvesting operations are in progress, whilst providing for a sufficiency of flooding during the period of the crops' growth. This course is adopted with conspicuous success in parts of the United States, notably in Louisiana, thus allowing for economy of production by permitting of the use of every modern farming appliance.

RYE.

This is hardly to be called a cereal crop, as the product is so largely utilised as hay or green fodder.

The following table shows the areas sown and the proportions reaped for grain during the last two years :—

J.

[illegible]

In common with nearly all crops, the 1902 season was one of comparative failure. Only 451 acres were sown with rye, and of these only 22 were reaped for grain. In 1903 the total area sown was 1,735 acres, of which 315 acres, or 18 per cent., were reaped for a yield of 6,482 bushels, as shown in the following table:—

J a.

Year.										Acres.	Yield.	Average per Acre.
											Bushels.	Bushels.
1899	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	198	2,391	12·08
1900	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	151	1,928	12·77
1901	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	246	5,000	20·33
1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	238	10·82
1903	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	315	6,482	20·58

The area mown for hay and cut for green fodder will be dealt with under those heads. The production and the average yield last year were the best recorded since 1897, but there does not appear to be much likelihood of the cultivation of rye as a grain crop being extended.

POTATOES (ENGLISH).

Although the area planted in 1903 was considerably more than double that for 1902, yet it fell much short of the areas for any other year of the decennium; the results, however, were most satisfactory, the average yield per acre in 1903 only being once exceeded during the ten years. Last year 17,649 tons of potatoes were obtained from 6,732 acres, or an average of 2.62 tons. In 1894, 2.68 tons were obtained, these being the best averages obtained during the intervening period. Seed selection is sufficiently recognised as so essential a condition to successful cultivation as to have become a truism, and reference to it is hardly necessary. Experiments, however—the results of which have been so widely disseminated as to have become of universal knowledge—go to show that as much can be accomplished in this direction with the potato as probably with any crop, and it has been proved that average results, ten times greater than the mean yield for Queensland last year, can be secured.

The annual demand for potatoes in this State for home consumption is from 35,000 to 40,000 tons, of which—on a five years' average—some 20,000 tons are imported, so that the production falls short of supplying one-half the local requirements. The quantity and value of potatoes imported for each of the past five years are shown in the following table:—

K.										Weight.	Value.
Year.										Tons.	£
1899	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,128	68,205
1900	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,001	64,831
1901	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,621	81,800
1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27,848	152,560
1903	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26,734	89,605

The ruling prices paid for imports in different years show a very wide range.

The potato was mainly cultivated in the Moreton group of districts, 63 per cent. of the total area and 67 per cent. of the total production being contributed from thence. The district of largest production was Gatton where, from 1,078 acres, 3,641 tons were obtained, an average of 3.4 tons per acre.

SWEET POTATOES.

A larger area was planted with this tuber last year than in 1902, but the acreage was nevertheless below that for any other year since 1895. From the 3,054 acres set in 1903 there were 13,412 tons harvested, or an average to each acre of 4.39 tons, the poorest yield for any year of the decennium except 1902. The sweet potato does not appear to increase in favour either as a vegetable or as food for pigs or other live stock; the coarser, more prolific varieties, that are the most profitable for the latter purpose are not so much cultivated as formerly.

SUGAR.

Although the results obtained from the cultivation of sugar-cane last year—namely, 91,828 tons of sugar—fell considerably short of the experience of several previous years, yet they showed a marked improvement on the figures for 1902, the production in 1903 being almost the same as in 1900, although some 30,000 tons below the crops of 1899 and 1901, and, of course, greatly below the record crop of 1898, when there was an output of 163,734 tons. The excise authorities return the output for 1903 at 89,862 tons, but as they only count sugar actually passed through the centrifugal, whilst the figures collected for this office include the returns from the whole season's crop, the sugar not dried by the end of the year being either estimated from the jellies in the tank or ascertained after the reboiling or centrifugalling early in the following year, consequently the latter are in excess of the excise figures. Moreover, last year's crushing, particularly in the North, was continued very late, in a few instances even extending into the early weeks of the new year; the results, however, being products of the 1903 crop, have also been included.

The appendix tables relating to agriculture give fuller details for each petty sessions district. In the summary tables appearing in the body of the report, however, it will be found that some petty sessions districts have been grouped. This has been rendered necessary from the fact that cane the produce of one district is frequently carried for manufacture to another, consequently such districts have to be taken together in all tables in which the yield of sugar is dealt with.

A summary of the sugar crop of each of the past five years is furnished in the following table :—

L.

Year.	Acres Cultivated.	Acres Crushed.	YIELD.	
			Tons Cane.	Tons Sugar.
1899	110,657	79,435	1,176,466	123,289
1900	108,535	72,651	848,328	92,554
1901	112,031	78,160	1,180,091	120,858
1902	85,338	59,102	641,927	76,626
1903	111,516	60,375	823,875	91,828

The area under cane in 1903—namely, 111,516 acres—was only exceeded once in any of the previous five years. In 1901 there were 112,031 acres under cultivation, or a small excess over the figures for 1903 of 515 acres. A noticeable feature of last year's crop was the large area of "stand-over cane," the acreage crushed, 60,375 acres, being but little in excess of that for the previous year, when the total area planted was 85,338 acres only. In 1899, 1900, and 1901 the acreages crushed were 79,435, 72,651, and 78,160 respectively ; excesses over the area for 1903 of 19,060 acres, 12,276 acres, and 17,785 acres.

It has, however, to be borne in mind that in 1902 the cane from an exceptionally large area was utilised as cattle feed, in consequence of the extraordinary prices ruling for forage of all kinds, to keep animals alive during the severe drought.

Although in 1903 each ton of cane did not yield quite so much sugar as in 1902, the dry weather in that year resulting in a high degree of density, the actual returns obtained from each ton of cane being for 1902 2 cwt. 1 qr. 15 lb., and for 1903 2 cwt. 0 qr. 26 lb., yet this was more than compensated for by the greater average yield of cane to the area cut for crushing. In 1903 there were 823,875 tons of cane obtained from the 60,375 acres crushed, against 641,927 tons only obtained from the nearly equal area of 59,102 acres in 1902. The yield of sugar in 1903—namely, 91,828 tons—exceeded the output for 1902, when 76,626 tons were obtained, by 15,202 tons, which at £11 per ton, the approximate value of sugar, gives £167,000 as the enhanced value of the 1903 crop.

The proportionate results of the sugar crop for each year 1899-1903 were as follow :—

L a.

Year.	TO EACH ACRE CRUSHED.		Tons of Cane to One Ton of Sugar.
	Tons of Cane.	Tons of Sugar.	
1899	14·81	1·55	9·54
1900	11·68	1·28	9·44
1901	15·10	1·55	9·76
1902	10·86	1·30	8·38
1903	13·65	1·52	8·97

There was an average of 13·65 tons of cane obtained off each acre cut for crushing. This was a considerably better return than was obtained in either 1900 or 1902, but fell somewhat short of the results for the other two years of the quinquennium. In 1898 the average yield was 18·72 tons to each acre.

Just over 1½ tons of sugar—1·52—was obtained from each acre in 1903. In 1900 the average yield to each acre was 1·28, and in 1902 1·30 tons, so that the return for 1903 showed a considerable improvement on these figures, and approximated very closely to the average yields for 1899 and 1901, in both of which years returns of 1·55 tons to each acre were obtained.

Rather less than 9 tons—8·97—were on an average required to produce 1 ton of sugar, so that a good degree of density was secured, the average quantity of cane to each ton of sugar in previous years being in 1899, 9·54 tons ; 1900, 9·44 tons ; 1901, 9·76 tons ; and in 1902, 8·38 tons, the lastnamed being the only year in which a better result was secured than in 1903, due to the reason already referred to—namely, that dry weather at the period of ripening had induced the production of juice of a high density.

Further particulars respecting the production of each district or locality are furnished in the following table:—

L b.

District.	Area for Plants.	Area Stand-over or Unproductive.	Area Crushed for Sugar.	Total Area for Sugar.	Weight of Cane.	Sugar.	Molasses.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Tons.	Tons.	Gallons.
<i>Rockingham—</i>							
Cairns and Douglas	283	5,901	10,957	17,141	169,186	19,785	288,000
Ingham and Mourilyan	642	5,752	13,777	20,171	200,186	24,548	776,822
Total Rockingham	925	11,653	24,734	37,312	369,372	44,333	1,064,822
<i>Edgecumbe—</i>							
Ayr	128	2,390	2,963	5,481	62,211	7,400	95,059
Bowen	33	1,149	1,865	3,047	25,899	2,704	70,000
Mackay	529	9,699	13,245	23,473	170,386	18,329	557,000
Total Edgecumbe	690	13,238	18,073	32,001	258,496	28,433	722,059
<i>Port Curtis—</i>							
Rockhampton ... ..	...	49	...	49	...	...	...
<i>Burnett and Wide Bay—</i>							
Bundaberg and Gin Gin	713	15,432	5,732	21,877	82,809	} 15,691 50	494,031
Childers, Maryborough, and Tiaro	124	5,579	9,504	15,207	70,944		...
Gympie	1	100	40	141	579		...
Total Burnett and Wide Bay ...	838	21,111	15,276	37,225	154,332	15,741	494,031
<i>Moreton—</i>							
Logan	8	1,278	833	2,119	16,768	1,255	39,140
Marburg and Rosewood	3	24	...	27	...	...	...
Maroochy	37	1,160	957	2,154	17,621	1,446	57,600
Nerang	13	114	502	629	7,286	620	30,000
Total Moreton	61	2,576	2,292	4,929	41,675	3,321	126,740
TOTAL STATE	2,514	48,627	60,375	111,516	823,875	91,828	2,407,652

The two first columns of this table point to a greater increase in the production of sugar for 1904 if favourable weather is experienced. The produce of a greatly increased area was utilised for plants, which inferentially implies an increased area planted, whilst the large acreage of "stand-over" cane—48,627 acres—suggests an enlarged output. Of this, 21,111 acres were in the Wide Bay and Burnett group of districts—Bundaberg-Gin Gin holding over nearly three-fourths of the entire area planted, 13,238 acres in the Edgecumbe group, and 11,653 acres in the Rockingham group.

Of the 60,375 acres cut for crushing, 24,734 acres were in Rockingham, Ingham-Mourilyan contributing 13,777 acres, and Cairns-Douglas 10,957 acres. In the Edgecumbe group, where 18,073 acres were crushed, Mackay returned 13,245 acres; Ayr, 2,963 acres; and Bowen, 1,865 acres. Burnett and Wide Bay crushed the produce of 15,276 acres, of which 5,732 acres were contributed by Bundaberg-Gin Gin, and 9,504 acres by Childers-Maryborough-Tiaro.

There were 823,875 tons of cane obtained from the 60,375 acres crushed in 1903 against 641,927 tons in the previous year, or an additional output of 181,948 tons in the former year. Of this, 369,372 tons, or 45 per cent., were harvested in Rockingham, 258,496 tons, or 31 per cent., in Edgecumbe, 154,332 tons, or 19 per cent., in Burnett and Wide Bay, and 41,675 tons, or 5 per cent., in Moreton.

Nearly one-half—48 per cent.—of the total output of 91,828 tons of sugar was produced in Rockingham group of districts, Mourilyan-Ingham returning 24,548 tons, or 26·5 per cent., and Cairns-Douglas 19,785 tons, or 21·5 per cent. Of the 28,433 tons contributed by the Edgecumbe group, Mackay returned 18,329 tons, or 20 per cent., of the total output of the State, and Ayr and Bowen 7,400 and 2,704 tons respectively. There were 15,741 tons produced in the Burnett and Wide Bay districts, and 3,321 tons in Moreton.

MOLASSES.—A large quantity of the molasses after final reboilings was run to waste, and it was not possible to ascertain the quantity utilised in all cases, as it was in a few instances stated to have been fed to stock without any record being kept of the quantity. There were 2,407,652 gallons returned as produced, of which 665,488 gallons were put to profit, 348,493 gallons being sold by the producer, and 316,995 gallons fed to stock by him. There were stocked for future use or sale 1,020,382 gallons, the remainder being run to waste.

The following table compares results of the sugar crop in each petty sessions district for the past two seasons :—

L.c.

Petty Sessions District.	Cultivation.			Production.					
	Area in 1902.	Area in 1903.	Increase or —Decrease in 1903.	1902.		1903.		Increase or —Decrease in 1903.	
				Area Crushed.	Sugar.	Area Crushed.	Sugar.	Area Crushed.	Sugar.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.
Ayr	4,344	5,481	1,137	3,156	5,714	2,963	7,400	— 193	1,686
Bowen	2,701	3,047	346	1,314	2,016	1,865	2,704	551	688
Bundaberg and Gin Gin ...	12,847	21,877	9,030	8,205	} 6,647	{ 5,732	} 15,691	2,981	9,044
Childers, Maryborough, and Tiaro	8,770	15,207	6,437	4,050					
Cairns and Douglas	13,663	17,141	3,478	10,479	18,370	10,957	19,785	478	1,415
Ingham and Mourilyan	18,925	20,171	1,246	14,973	26,710	13,777	24,548	— 1,196	— 2,162
Logan	539	2,119	1,580	213	189	833	1,255	620	1,066
Mackay	22,379	23,473	1,094	16,369	16,676	13,245	18,329	— 3,124	1,653
Marburg and Rosewood ... ..	...	27	27	...	...	...	...	...	...
Maroochy and Gympie	965	2,295	1,330	328	279	997	1,496	669	1,217
Nerang	205	629	424	15	25	502	620	487	595
Rockhampton ... ..	...	49	49	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals, 1902	85,338	...	...	59,102	76,626	...	...	...	...
Totals, 1903 ... ..	...	111,516	...	...	...	60,375	91,828	...	...
Increase in certain Districts, 1903 ... ..	...	...	26,178	...	...	...	...	5,786	17,364
Decrease in certain Districts, 1903 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,513	2,162
Net Increase in 1903 ... ..	...	...	26,178	...	...	...	...	1,273	15,202
Net Decrease in 1903 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Of the area under cane, there was for the whole State an increase in 1903 of 26,178 acres over the figures for 1902—namely, from 85,338 acres to 111,516 acres. The principal increases were : Bundaberg-Gin Gin, 9,030 acres ; Childers-Maryborough-Tiara, 6,437 acres ; and Cairns-Douglas, 3,478 acres. In no district was there a decrease.

Of the 1,273 acres of additional area cut for crushing in 1903, 2,981 acres were contributed by the Burnett and Wide Bay group of districts. Mackay and Ingham-Mourilyan had decreases of 3,124 acres and 1,196 acres respectively. In Ingham-Mourilyan 26,710 tons of sugar were made in 1902, and 24,548 tons in 1903, a decrease of 2,162 tons in the latter year. This was the only district returning a decreased output. There was a large increase of 9,044 tons in Burnett and Wide Bay—namely, from 6,647 tons of sugar in 1902 to 15,691 tons in 1903, a centesimal ratio of increase of 136. This group of districts contributed 59 per cent. of the total increase of sugar output for the year.

The average yields of cane and of sugar in each group of petty sessions districts are shown in the following table :—

L.d.

SUGAR AVERAGES, 1903.

District.				Tons of Cane per Acre Crushed.	Tons of Sugar per Acre Crushed.	Tons of Cane per Ton of Sugar.
<i>Rockingham—</i>						
Cairns and Douglas ... ..	...	...	...	15.44	1.81	8.55
Ingham and Mourilyan ... ..	...	...	...	14.53	1.78	8.15
Total Rockingham ... ..	...	...	...	14.49	1.79	8.33
<i>Edgecumbe—</i>						
Ayr ... ..	...	...	...	21.00	2.50	8.41
Bowen ... ..	...	...	...	13.89	1.57	9.58
Mackay ... ..	...	...	...	12.86	1.40	9.30
Total Edgecumbe ... ..	...	...	...	14.30	1.58	9.09

Ld.—continued.

SUGAR AVERAGES, 1903—continued.

District.								Tons of Cane per Acre Crushed.	Tons of Sugar per Acre Crushed.	Tons of Cane per Ton of Sugar.
<i>Port Curtis—</i>										
Rockhampton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Port Curtis								...	...	...
<i>Burnett and Wide Bay—</i>										
Bundaberg and Gin Gin	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14·85	}	9·80
Childers, Maryborough, and Tiaro	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7·46		
Gympie	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14·47		11·58
Total Burnett and Wide Bay								10·10	1·03	9·80
<i>Moreton—</i>										
Logan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20·13	1·51	13·36
Marburg and Rosewood	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Maroochy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18·41	1·51	12·19
Nerang	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14·51	1·24	11·75
Total Moreton								18·18	1·45	12·55
TOTAL STATE								13·65	1·52	8·97

The average return of cane from each acre cut for crushing was for the whole State 13·65 tons. The highest yield was in Moreton group, 18·18 tons, which comprised the petty sessions districts of Logan, giving 20·13 tons, Maroochy, 18·41 tons, and Nerang, 14·51 tons. Rockingham group came next with 14·49 tons of cane to each acre, then Edgumbe group with 14·30 tons, and Burnett and Wide Bay with 10·10 tons.

Of tons of sugar to each acre cut for crushing, the yields were for the whole State, as already given, 1·52 tons to each acre. Rockingham, 1·79 tons; Edgumbe, 1·58 tons; Moreton, 1·45 tons; and Burnett and Wide Bay 1·03 tons.

Of individual petty sessions districts the most successful was Ayr, where the fine return of 2·50 tons to each acre was obtained—a magnificent tribute to the benefits of irrigation, even in a season not remarkable for abnormal dryness. Good average returns of 1·81 tons and 1·78 tons were obtained at Cairns-Douglas and Ingham-Mourilyan respectively. In the South, the petty sessions districts of Logan and Maroochy both gave good returns of 1·51 tons to each acre. The less satisfactory yields from Burnett and Wide Bay group are probably explained by the small area cut for crushing. The crop being late, the more promising portion has no doubt been reserved, and is probably comprised in the exceptionally large area held over in this group for crushing in 1904.

The quantity of cane required to make 1 ton of sugar ranged from 8·15 tons in Ingham-Mourilyan to 13·36 tons in the Logan.

A comparison of the average production for 1902 and 1903 in each of the five large groups of districts is made in the following table:—

L.e.

Division.	TO EACH ACRE CRUSHED.				TON CANE TO EACH TON SUGAR.	
	Tons of Cane.		Tons of Sugar.		1902.	1903.
	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.		
Rockingham	14·63	14·49	1·78	1·79	7·92	8·33
Edgumbe	10·32	14·30	1·17	1·58	8·81	9·09
Port Curtis	...	...	...	...	...	...
Burnett and Wide Bay	5·27	10·10	0·54	1·03	9·72	9·80
Moreton	9·69	18·18	0·89	1·45	10·92	12·55
State	10·86	13·65	1·30	1·52	8·38	8·97

In every instance in 1903 an improvement on the figures for 1902 in the weight of cane and of sugar obtained to each acre is to be noted. In both Burnett and Wide Bay and in Moreton the quantity of cane obtained to each acre practically doubled, whilst Edgumbe showed an increase approximating to 50 per cent. In the tonnage of sugar secured from each acre, the quantity obtained in the Burnett and Wide Bay group nearly doubled in 1903, advancing from 0·54 tons in 1902 to 1·03 in the following year. In Rockingham the two seasons' returns were remarkably even, whilst substantial advances were obtained in both Edgumbe and Moreton.

The difference in output in the crop of the two years was due to the increase in the quantity of cane harvested, as rather better results were on the whole obtained from the cane in 1902 than in 1903, as in no district was the sugar contents of the cane as good in 1903 as in the previous year.

With the Commonwealth now available as a free market, the prospects of facing the world's beet sugar production on either even or adverse terms, has for a time been withdrawn from the attention of Queensland sugar-planters, consequently, the question of bounty-fed beet sugar is not such a burning one; but, nevertheless, the fact that so many countries have abolished the objectionable method of protection is a matter for congratulation (Russia and America only now retaining them), and the Imperial Government have, in the event of the International Convention coming to the conclusion that Russia's methods amount to a system of bounty, announced the intention of expressing its willingness to denounce the Treaty of Commerce with the view to forcing the hand of that country.

The assistance afforded to growers of cane who cultivate and harvest with white labour by the rebate of excise granted to them is, in view of the Federal action with respect to Pacific Islanders, for a time at least, a much more important question.

Last year, at the instance of one of the Northern chambers of commerce, instructions were received to make arrangements to collect information as to the area and quantity of sugar-cane grown by white labour. Officers of police on collecting agricultural statistics were instructed to distinguish in their returns all cane cut and crushed which had been grown and harvested by white labour. The results of their investigation on this point are shown in the following table :—

L f.
RETURNED AS GROWN AND HARVESTED BY WHITE LABOUR.

Rebate.	Petty Sessions District.						Area Crushed for Sugar.	Weight of Cane Harvested.
							Acres.	Tons.
No. 1 at 5s.	Cairns and Douglas						849	11,764
	Ingham and Mourilyan						1,606	24,757
	Total						2,455	36,521
No. 2 at 4s. 8d.	Ayr						414	6,521
	Bowen						1,247	20,367
	Mackay						6,189	73,845
	Total						7,850	100,733
No. 3 at 4s. 4d.	Bundaberg and Gin Gin						992	6,811
	Childers, Maryborough, and Tiaro						3,856	32,166
	Total						4,848	38,977
No. 4 at 4s.	Logan						758	15,167
	Maroochy and Gympie						860	15,228
	Nerang						309	5,491
	Total						1,927	35,886
	Grand total						17,080	212,117

It is very improbable that information covering so wide a field, collected by two different authorities, should absolutely agree, and therefore some divergence from the excise figures on this head is to be looked for. The latter are not yet available in detail, but the amount of money paid to growers as rebate in each of the four excise districts has kindly been furnished by that department. As these are not for exactly the same period as the statistical returns, and, moreover, are subject to refunds and other adjustments, they apply an approximate check only to weight of cane grown by white labour, and, of course, have no bearing on the corresponding acreage crushed. The following are the boundaries of the excise districts and the ratio of rebate to each ton of cane allowed in each :—

						Rebate in form of Bonus.	
						s.	d.
1st District—north of the 19th parallel	...	...	...	...	...	5	0 per ton
2nd District—19th to 23rd parallel	...	...	...	...	...	4	„
3rd District—23rd to 26th parallel	...	...	...	...	...	4	4 „
4th District—south of 26th parallel	...	...	...	...	...	4	0 „

The amounts paid by the excise and the tonnage of cane upon which paid in each district for 1902 and 1903 were as follow :—

	1902.		1903.	
	Tonnage of Cane.	Amount of Bonus.	Tonnage of Cane.	Amount of Bonus.
1st District	17,095	£ 4,274	37,660	£ 9,415
2nd „	69,899	16,345	106,333	24,811
3rd „	13,730	2,974	40,283	8,728
4th „	4,579	917	37,500	7,500
Total	105,303	24,510	221,776	50,454

Irrespective of the importance as a branch of agriculture which the production of the raw material gives to the sugar industry, it ranks high as a subject of manufacture, involving in this relation alone a capital exceeding two millions sterling, and giving employment to over 1,400 hands.

L g.

										VALUE.			
										Works.	Hands Employed.	Machinery.	Land and Premises.
										No.	No.	£	£
Refineries	} In operation, 1903	{	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	217	235,704	70,000
Juice Mills			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	9	51,500	1,500
Sugar Mills			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37	1,184	1,414,454	67,201
										42	1,410	1,701,658	138,701
Temporarily shut down	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	...	281,444	14,879
										60	1,410	1,983,102	153,580

There were forty-two factories actively engaged in the production or treatment of sugar last year, besides eighteen which were temporarily closed; the corresponding numbers for 1902 were forty-seven and fourteen, one mill having been dismantled.

Under "*The Sugar Works Guarantee Acts, 1893 to 1895*" provision is made for affording assistance to the sugar industry by providing for the establishment, at approved centres, of factories for the manufacture of sugar. These statutes empower the Government to guarantee loans or to make advances at low rate of interest to companies, either co-operative or otherwise, engaged in or established for the manufacture of sugar, such guarantee or loan being secured over the factory and over the real estate of shareholders, as may be arranged.

The following information, kindly supplied by the Comptroller of Central Sugar-Mills, shows the position with respect to advances made to mills to 31st December, 1903:—

1. Number of sugar-mills to which advances have been made under the Sugar Works Guarantee Act	11
2. Under other conditions	2
3. Number of tramway companies under the Sugar Works Guarantee Act	1
	£ s. d.
4. Total amount of advances up to 31st December, 1903	526,135 11 2
5. Under other conditions	46,000 0 0
6. Indebtedness to 31st December, 1903, under Sugar Works Guarantee Act, including special temporary advances	554,783 11 6
7. Under other conditions	19,792 17 0

There is considerable difficulty in determining the stocks in hand of any article of staple production which is at the same time one of general consumption. This difficulty is enhanced when, as in the case of sugar, the article is not of a particularly perishable character. Without reliable information on this point, to estimate the consumption by the production and the imports of any one year, minus the exports, would manifestly prove most fallacious. To obviate as far as possible this difficulty of "stocks in hand" the averages of a series of years are taken. But with respect to sugar, stocks are found to vary, so that even over a decennial period, if the average is recast annually, most improbable fluctuations disclose themselves. As in the absence of the pronounced expansion of any export industry using sugar as a raw material the *per capita* consumption would remain fairly constant, it has been determined to adhere, for a time at least, to the ratios found to exist from the averages of a series of past years.

The following estimate is based on this hypothesis:—

L h.

RETURN showing the ANNUAL CONSUMPTION of SUGAR for the YEAR 1903, based on the AVERAGE ANNUAL CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA of the MEAN POPULATION, for a SERIES of YEARS.

	Queensland.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Total Commonwealth.	New Zealand.	Total Australasia
Consumption for Year 1903—Tons	26,092	66,694	51,809	16,504	10,175	7,330	178,604	38,082	216,686
Average Annual Consumption per Capita for a Series of Years—Lb.	114	105	96	101	103	92	102	104	103

Thus Queensland has a larger *per capita* consumption of sugar than any other State, being 9 lb. greater than the next largest—New South Wales—where 105 lb. for each individual are required. The lowest average consumption is in Tasmania (92 lb.), the demand for the Commonwealth being 102 lb.

It is perhaps too early to foretell with any accuracy as to the 1904 crop, but there seems little doubt that the sugar produced will very considerably exceed the output for last year. If this should prove the case, and one or two more favourable seasons were to follow, the Federal production would soon prove equal to the Federal demand, and the question of export beyond the Commonwealth have to be faced.

In 1903 there were required for use within the Commonwealth	Tons.	Tons.
There were produced during that year—	...	178,604
By Queensland	91,828	
By New South Wales	21,786	
	113,614	
Deficiency to be made up by imports from beyond the Commonwealth	64,990	
		178,604

There were approximately 90,000 tons of sugar imported into the Commonwealth from places outside the States during 1902; but, as the figures for 1903 are not yet available, it is impossible to say how far the imports less exports agreed with the requirements of consumption.

The following table furnishes information as to the imports and exports for 1902:—

L i.

IMPORTS and EXPORTS of SUGAR during 1902, each AUSTRALIAN STATE from and to places beyond the COMMONWEALTH.

State.	Imports.	Exports.	Net Imports.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Queensland	2	81	— 79
New South Wales	7,033	2,669	4,364
Victoria	54,275	583	53,692
South Australia	25,957	49	25,908
Western Australia	5,569	...	5,569
Tasmania	468	...	468
Total Commonwealth	93,304	3,382	89,922

— Net Exports.

Under the advice and instruction of Dr. Maxwell, recently appointed Comptroller of the bureau of the central sugar mills in conjunction with his former office of Head of sugar experimental stations, no doubt great improvements may be looked for in the methods of cultivation adopted. Much has been done, and much remains to do, with respect to the production of the sugar-cane. Irrigation, fertilisation, and thorough tillage are essential if the best results are to be secured. The firstnamed, in view of more favourable seasons, will, perhaps, except where already initiated, be shelved for the time, although even in good years the command of a supply of water at just the right time is not to be held as of light value, whilst good tillage and fertilisation can never be ignored with impunity. It is a matter for regret, in a country whose future is so essentially dependent upon agriculture, that a regular if comparatively small excess of exports over imports of fertilisers should annually present themselves. The following table furnishes information on this point:—

L j.

QUEENSLAND IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MANURE, 1903.

IMPORTS.

Whence.	MANURE.	
	Quantity.	Value.
	Cwt.	£
New South Wales	9,053	2,862
Victoria	30	16
United Kingdom	152	122
Hong Kong	316	108
Germany	3,212	1,758
Total Imports	12,763	£4,866

EXPORTS.

Whither.	MANURE.	
	Quantity.	Value.
	Cwt.	£
New South Wales	12,131	2,684
Victoria	42,558	10,572
South Australia	1,208	448
Western Australia	660	165
Tasmania	5,502	1,210
Fiji	22	15
Canada	4	3
Japan	220	78
British New Guinea	1,682	590
Philippines	6	3
Total Exports	63,993	£15,768

The Customs returns for 1903 do not, as in previous years, discriminate as to the different kind of manure imported or exported.

Thus the exports of manures exceeded the imports by five times in quantity and three times in value. New South Wales and Germany were the principal contributors inwards, whilst more than two-thirds in value of the exports went to Victoria.

COTTON.

This crop, after having been practically neglected for eight years, has again attracted much attention, and although this attention has not yet taken the practical shape of more extended cultivation, yet this result may be looked for in the near future. The expansion of the cotton-weaving industry of the United States has resulted in the absorption of the bulk of the cotton production of that country, and British weavers are driven to look elsewhere for their raw material. Egypt will, no doubt, rapidly increase her output, but in the meantime the opportunity offers for all countries where cotton can be grown to secure a share of the market. It has in the past been fully demonstrated that the soil and climate of large areas of this State are admirably adapted to cotton-cultivation, and under the stimulus of a Government bonus it proved amply remunerative. On the withdrawal of the bonus cotton was no longer cultivated. Conditions, however, are now much more favourable—the price is more satisfactory, the value of the seed as a by-product is better recognised, and is now an important factor in the returns, whilst careful selection of seed as the result of experiment has secured a great improvement in both the quantity and the quality of the fibre. Furthermore, lessons taught by these experiments would appear to justify the conclusions that the full measure of the possible improvement has by no means as yet been attained.

The areas for 1902 and 1903 were quite insignificant, but further planting, it is to be hoped, will take place during the current year.

ARROWROOT.

This proved to be one of the most satisfactory of the minor crops during 1903, showing, as compared with 1902, an increased acreage and a greatly increased output; the area, however, was not equal to that planted each year from 1897 to 1901, but was nearly 70 acres better than last year, the product of which was mainly converted into the commercial article. The results of this crop for the two years were as under:—

M.

District.	1902.		1903.		Increase or Decrease —	
	Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.
<i>Rockingham —</i>						
Herberton ... ..	...	...	1	1	1	1
Mourilyan	50	600	40	800	— 10	200
Total Rockingham	50	600	41	801	— 9	201
<i>Moreton—</i>						
Caboolture ... ..	...	...	1	9	1	9
Logan	47	105	69	622	22	517
Maroochy	9	100	17	184	8	84
Nerang	185	632	229	3,095	44	2,463
Rosewood ... ..	...	...	1	2	1	2
Woodford	5	24	4	20	— 1	— 4
Total Moreton	246	861	321	3,932	75	3,071
<i>Other Districts—</i>						
Cook ... ..	...	...	1	2	1	2
Total State	296	1,461	363	4,735	67	3,274

From 296 acres 1,461 tons of arrowroot tubers were obtained in 1902, and from 363 acres 4,735 tons in 1903, or an increase of 67 acres and 3,274 tons, an average yield per acre of nearly 5 and rather more than 13 tons respectively.

Of the total area and quantity last year, 229 acres and 3,095 tons, or ratios of 63 and 65 per cent. respectively, were contributed by the petty sessions district of Nerang. The next largest area in any one district was 69 acres in Logan, from which 622 tons were obtained. The only considerable production outside the Moreton group of districts was that of 800 tons obtained from 40 acres at Mourilyan.

Besides providing the raw material from which commercial arrowroot is obtained, the tuber possesses great value as a food for pigs, and a considerable quantity is thus put to profit. Of the 4,735 tons of tuber grown in 1903, 4,148 tons, or 88 per cent., was utilised for purposes of manufacture, the following table furnishing particulars as to the results:—

M a.

District.								Hands Employed.	Tuber.	Arrowroot.
									Tons.	lb.
Mourilyan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	600	78,400
Logan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	527	105,360
Nerang	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	2,986	498,107
Others	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	2,016
								38	4,148	683,863

The conversion of the raw material into the marketable arrowroot provided employment for thirty-eight hands, in addition to those engaged in cultivation, twenty-nine of whom were engaged in the Nerang district, the site of manufacture having necessarily to be near the place of production of the tuber,

as the difference of weight between the latter and the finished article is so great. From the 4,148 tons of root grown last year 683,883 lb. of arrowroot were made, or 165 lb. to each ton of tuber; and, as in 1903, an average was obtained of 13 tons of tuber per acre, the quantity of commercial arrowroot produced was 2,145 lb., or practically 1 ton to each acre. From this it would appear that the waste removed in the process of manufacture was about 92 per cent. of the whole. There appears to be a considerable difference in the quantity of the commercial article obtained from the root in different districts; whether this is due to variations in the starch contents of the tuber, or in the exercise of greater or less care in the process of manufacture, there is no evidence to disclose. In Nerang, nearly 167 lb. were obtained from each ton; in the Logan, nearly 200 lb. were obtained from the same quantity of root; whilst at Mourilyan the results give 131 lb. only.

The exports of arrowroot last year amounted to rather more than half the production. The imports, exports, and production for each of the past five years is given in the following table:—

M b.
ARROWROOT.

Year.						IMPORTS.		EXPORTS.		PRODUCTION.	
						Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Manufacturers' Value.
						Lb.	£	Lb.	£	Lb.	£
1899	...	...	...	...	...	13,262	171	497,115	4,228	706,938	4,100
1900	...	...	...	...	...	13,785	200	463,617	3,534	772,280	3,257
1901	...	...	...	...	...	2,830	26	582,069	4,278	704,480	3,554
1902	...	...	...	...	...	5,648	59	360,719	3,872	192,702	1,766
1903	...	...	...	...	...	264	7	360,748	5,058	683,883	6,903

The production of arrowroot for 1902 was considerably less than a third of that for any year of the quinquennium. The annual average for the period, which was materially reduced by the failure of the crop for 1902 was, say, 612,000 lb.; the average import was only nominal—viz., about 7,000 lb., the average export being 450,000 lb., giving an average consumption within the State of 169,000 lb.

TOBACCO.

The uncertainty with respect to this crop is most disheartening. At the latter end of 1902 last year's tobacco season was expected to prove a most satisfactory one, instead of which it proved to be practically a failure; fortunately, however, the current year's crop has proved a good one, and has been so far harvested and cured as to preclude any great probability of failure.

The change that has been effected with regard to the control of the manufacture and the wholesale distribution of tobacco is hardly calculated to secure the best results for the producer of the raw material. The manufacturers have, by combination, secured a monopoly of the trade, and the element of competition in the purchase of dried leaf having been thus eliminated the planter will no doubt be expected to produce at a minimum price.

The crop for 1902 was by no means a good one, as compared with that for 1901, when fairly satisfactory results were secured; but the returns for 1903 were much below those for 1902, although a slightly increased area was planted in the former year. The figures for the past two years are given in the following table:—

N.

District.						1902.		1903.		Increase or Decrease —	
						Area.	Produce Dried Leaf.	Area.	Produce Dried Leaf.		
						Acres.	Cwt.	Acres.	Cwt.	Acres.	Cwt.
<i>Moreton.</i>											
Marburg	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	1	5
Total Moreton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	1	5
<i>Downs.</i>											
Inglewood	...	...	...	...	...	7	6	7	25	...	19
Texas	...	...	...	...	...	715	1,812	764	587	49	— 1,225
Total Downs	...	...	...	...	...	722	1,818	771	612	49	— 1,206
Total State	...	...	...	...	...	722	1,818	772	617	50	— 1,201

The cultivation of tobacco is practically confined to the two petty sessions districts of Inglewood and Texas, the latter last year embracing 99 per cent. of the total area and 95 per cent. of the total production. The increase in the total area in 1903, as compared with 1902, was 50 acres, of which 49 were in Texas. The area cultivated in 1902 in that district was 715 acres, from which 1,812 cwt. of dried leaf were obtained; whilst in the following year 764 acres returned 587 cwt. only, a decrease of 1,225 cwt. In Inglewood there were 7 acres cultivated in both years, and returns of 6 cwt. and 25 cwt. harvested in 1902 and 1903 respectively.

With two years of reduced crops—that for 1903 being almost a failure—the imports of tobacco would of necessity be increased. In 1901 there were 935,998 lb. imported and 962,312 lb. entered for home consumption; the quantity for the two succeeding years were as follow :—

N a.

Year.			Tobacco, &c.					Imported.	Entered for Home Consumption.
								Lb.	Lb.
1902	...	...	{	Manufactured	...	...	...	947,051	*871,622
				Unmanufactured	...	...	...	84,432	*89,781
				Cigars	...	...	...	50,532	*48,584
				Cigarettes	...	...	...	113,808	*113,362
				Snuff	...	...	...	716	516
			Total	...	...	...	1,196,539	1,123,865	
1903	...	...	{	Manufactured	...	...	...	1,136,279	*1,068,055
				Unmanufactured	...	...	...	70,668	27,205
				Cigars	...	...	...	40,855	*44,567
				Cigarettes	...	...	...	112,367	*113,795
				Snuff	...	...	...	493	*619
			Total	...	...	...	1,360,662	1,254,241	

* Including imports, produce of other States, duty free.

It will be seen that the differences between imports and the entries for consumption are so slight that for practical purposes either set of figures may be used. Taking the imports, these amounted to 1,196,539 lb. in 1902, an increase over the previous year of 260,541 lb.; and to 1,360,662 lb. in 1903, an increase over 1902 of 164,123 lb. The increase has been chiefly in manufactured tobacco, the removal of the interstate tariff having resulted in a great reduction in the quantity of dried leaf converted to the commercial article within the State.

The quantities manufactured in Queensland for each of the past three years were as follow :—

N b.

						1901.		1902.		1903.	
						Lb.	Value. £	Lb.	Value. £	Lb.	Value. £
Tobacco	...	...	...	...	...	669,247	75,960	341,649	29,077	342,477	27,822
Cigars	...	...	...	...	...	1,151	547	1,300	510	706	329
Cigarettes	...	...	...	...	...	30,450	9,135	...	...	...	...
Snuff	...	...	...	...	...	245	39	10	1	...	...
						701,093	85,681	342,959	29,588	343,183	28,151

In both 1902 and 1903 there was rather less than half the quantity manufactured as in 1901, whilst the making up of cigarettes has entirely ceased.

The excise paid in Queensland on the tobacco as manufactured or made up within the State for each of the past three years was as follow :—

N c.

						1901. £	1902. £	1903. £
Tobacco	...	...	...	...	...	29,565	28,040	16,765
Cigars	...	...	...	...	...	81	93	69
Cigarettes	...	...	...	...	...	2,814	14	...
Snuff	...	...	...	...	...	20	5	...
						32,480	28,152	16,834

There was a decrease of £4,328 in 1902, and a further decrease of £11,318 in 1903, on the figures of the immediately preceding year.

COFFEE.

The coffee-tree thrives well throughout nearly the whole of the Queensland coastal districts. In the more southerly portions of the State it is necessary to select sheltered situations for the plantation as the shrub is somewhat susceptible to frost. Brazil is the main source of coffee production, from whence is supplied some two-thirds of the world's demand. The condition obtaining there is one of chronic over-production, and for the purpose of maintaining the price such an extreme measure as the destruction of a portion of the crop has been adopted, and it has even been suggested to root out a part of the plantation for the same object; there is, therefore, but little prospect of coffee becoming an article of export beyond the Commonwealth; but as the requirements of Australia approximate to 2,500,000 lb. of coffee per annum, and there is an import duty of 3d. per lb. on raw coffee, and 5d. per lb. on coffee roasted, ground, or prepared, there remains a good field for expansion beyond the present rate of production.

The experiences of the coffee-planter for 1903 were not satisfactory, the output being considerably below that for 1902, which had itself shown a marked decline upon that for 1901. This was not, however, due to anything unfavourable in the season for 1903, but to the loss from drought during 1901-2 of a large number of matured trees, so that the average yields were greatly reduced, being the produce of more recently planted trees. The following table gives full particulars as to the crop for the past two years:—

DISTRICT.	Not yet Bearing.		Bearing.				Average Yield per acre (Bearing).		1903. Increase or Decrease—	1903. Increase or Decrease—
	1902.	1903.	1902.		1903.		1902.	1903.		
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Lb.	Acres.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.		
<i>Rockingham—</i>										
Cairns	39	...	123	62,027	144	41,848	504	291	21	— 20,179
Douglas	3	5	15	6,520	16	8,404	435	525	1	1,884
Herberton	4	2	2	2,707	4	2,460	1,354	615	2	— 247
Marceba	2	1	22	200	12	5,020	9	418	— 10	4,820
Mourilyan ... ..	...	...	40	17,920	30	15,680	448	523	— 10	— 2,240
Total Rockingham ...	48	8	202	89,374	206	73,412	442	356	4	— 15,962
<i>Edgumbe—</i>										
Mackay... ..	6	11	35	5,200	50	2,780	149	56	15	— 2,420
<i>Port Curtis—</i>										
Rockhampton	16	14	3	1,200	3	500	400	167	...	— 700
<i>Wide Bay and Burnett—</i>										
Maryborough ... ..	...	30	10	514	6	8	51	1	— 4	— 506
<i>Moreton—</i>										
Dugandan ... ..	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ipswich	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Maroochy	8	11	44	14,873	36	5,562	338	155	— 8	— 9,311
Total Moreton	9	13	44	14,873	36	5,562	338	155	— 8	— 9,311
<i>Other Districts—</i>										
Cook	3	...	20	2,140	17	1,370	107	81	— 3	— 770
Total State	82	76	314	113,301	318	83,632	361	265	4	— 29,669

In 1902 there were 396 acres under coffee, of which 82 acres were not bearing, and from 314 acres 113,301 lb. of coffee were obtained, or an average of 361 lb. to each acre. Last year there were 394 acres under coffee, a decrease of 2 acres; 76 acres were not bearing, a decrease of 6 acres. From the 318 acres of matured trees, an area of 4 acres in excess of that for 1902, 63,632 lb. of coffee were marketed, or an average of 265 per acre, or decrease of 29,669 lb. actual, and 96 lb. relative respectively.

Last year 62 per cent. of the acreage and 88 per cent. of the production was from the Rockingham group of districts, which are located to the north of Halifax Bay, and nearly three-fourths of this area and more than half this production was at Cairns. The best average yield was obtained at Herberton, namely, 615 lb. per acre from a small area of 4 acres.

In previous years the average production has fallen a little short of half of the demand within the State; for 1903 comparisons are precluded, because the Customs authorities include chicory with coffee in the import returns.

It has been asserted that dried coffee leaves provide an excellent substitute for and produce a decoction closely resembling tea. In the absence of direct evidence, either analytical or otherwise, it is perhaps idle to theorise; but the plants in many respects are so dissimilar as to make it improbable that anything practical in the way of such substitution is likely to result.

PUMPKINS AND MELONS.

These crops were very nearly a failure in 1902, only 2,573 acres being returned as crop-bearing, but last year 18,833 acres were planted with pumpkins and melons of all kinds, and an average yield of 3.30 tons was obtained off each acre, or a total production of 62,102 tons. Prior to 1898 these crops were not specially recorded, and last year witnessed the largest area planted and the greatest production secured since that date.

The Moreton group of districts contributed 12,523 acres, or 66 per cent. of the total area under pumpkins, &c., and 45,192 tons, or 73 per cent. of the total yield. As with the potato, Gatton was the district of largest production, followed by Dugandan, Laidley, and Beaudesert. Further particulars respecting this crop can be obtained from the appendix tables.

FRUIT.

This section of the agricultural industry is assuming a more prominent position as conditions essential to its successful pursuit are better and more generally understood. Scientific procedure, so desirable in every branch of farming, becomes an imperative necessity to the pomologist. Crops that occupy the ground but for a season will assuredly punish the grower for ignorance and neglect, but are

less likely as a consequence to become hotbeds of diseases and insect pests than those of a more permanent character. The badly-conducted orchard not only fails to give a suitable return to its owner, but is a centre from which incalculable mischief may be distributed to every fruit tree in its vicinity. This is largely recognised, and measures have been taken, not only in Queensland, but in every State of the Commonwealth except New South Wales, to cope with this difficulty. Here, however, the authorising statute—"The Diseases in Plants Act of 1896"—is found inadequate, and fresh legislation giving extended powers is in contemplation, and judging from reports made by agricultural collectors cannot be adopted and put in force too soon.

Another difficulty that presents itself for solution is the question of marketing the produce of the orchards, which means export; for, although the home consumption may be greatly increased by the stimulus of reduced prices, yet the population is too limited to afford the prospect of any appreciable relief in this direction. Export, even to distant markets, is, with regard to certain fruits, long past the experimental stage; given certain known conditions, the rigid application of recognised methods, and the results are well-nigh assured. Some fruits, owing to the brief period possible between maturity and decay, can never be objects of distant transport, although much may, by proper treatment, be done in this direction with all. Experiments are now being conducted by officers of the Agricultural Department to ascertain how best to secure the desired end as regards some fruits not hitherto figuring to any extent as exportable commodities.

The fact that fruit cultivation involves the necessity of waiting longer for a return than do other farm products no doubt deters many from entering upon the undertaking. The dairyman commences to receive a few days after starting, and the general farmer may look for a return in a few months; the orchardist, on the other hand, must provide probably for some years before a revenue can be expected.

The experiences of the orchardist last year were hardly so satisfactory as those of his confreres, as the results with respect to many fruits were not pronouncedly better than in previous years of drought. Many trees which it was hoped would revive with the return of favourable seasons proved on the contrary to be dead, and reduced areas have been recorded as a consequence.

A fresh method of obtaining the returns of fruit trees was adopted for the first time with this collection, the number of trees being applied for instead of the acreage, the latter being subsequently arrived at by a process of apportionment on an approved standard.

The returns received show that about 1,500,000 vines, 265,000 orange-trees, 40,000 apples, 5,000 apricots, over 3,000 cherries, 34,000 mangoes, 33,000 peaches, nearly 20,000 plums, and over 15,000 other named varieties of fruits were in cultivation.

VINES, GRAPES, AND WINE.

The cultivation of the grape-vine for the production of wine does not make much headway. Prior to federation a certain quantity of wine was made for home consumption, approximating from two-thirds to three-fifths of the total demand, but this ratio to the present requirements is not now maintained, the wine of the southern States, relieved of the import duty, finding a wider sale than was formerly the case. Some experts are of opinion that wine of a satisfactory quality is not likely to be produced in small quantities, and advocate the establishment, preferably by co-operation, of central factories for the manufacture. They hold that no sufficient attention is given to producing given types of wine, and those the ones best suited to the locality. By the central system of manufacture, expert advice could be made available to the grower in the selection of the kinds of grapes suitable to the locality and as to their cultivation, as well as expert skill for the manipulation and treatment of the crop in the process of manufacture. Thus approved types of wine could be manufactured, and continuity of supply of an article of uniform quality be secured, a condition essential to obtain and retain a foreign market.

The introduction of new and improved varieties of vines by grafting is much retarded by the delay and trouble attendant on obtaining vines therefrom on rooted phylloxera-resisting scions. It would appear, from experiments made at the New South Wales State Viticultural Station, at Howling, near Albury, that vigorous-rooted grafted scions may be obtained in one year, failures being occasional only. The system may be described briefly as follows:—Grafting of the cutting itself, and then rooting in moss or sand under glass, at a temperature of 70 to 90 degrees. The double-cleft graft is preferred, and union is effected in from 20 to 30 days.

There was a larger area under vines in 1903 than in the previous year. The results for the two years were as follow:—

Q.

Year.	VINEYARD.			Grapes Gathered.	Average Yield.
	Acres Bearing.	Acres not yet Bearing.	Total.		
1902	1,302	257	1,559	Lb. 2,284,404	Lb. 1,755
1903	1,486	583	2,069	2,362,520	1,590

The total area in 1903 exceeded the total area in 1902 by 510 acres, the area in bearing, however, was only 184 acres more in the former year.

There were 583 acres not in bearing in 1903. There has been a considerable amount of replanting of vines lost during the drought, but in some instances stocks, abandoned as dead having revived with the return of favourable weather, have again been counted into the vine area.

From 1,486 acres in 1903, 2,362,520 lb. of grapes were obtained, or 1,590 lb. to each acre, against 2,284,404 lb. from 1,302 acres in 1902, an average of 1,755 lb. to each acre. Notwithstanding the large quantity of grapes obtained in 1903 there was less wine manufactured, as will be shown later

on. The consumption of grapes as a table fruit was greatly increased last year by the reduction in price, the finest grapes being retailed in the streets of Brisbane at 2d. and even less per lb. The crop for the two years in the principal vine-growing districts is shown in the following table:—

Q a.

Petty Sessions District.	AREA UNDER VINES.								
	1902.			1903.			Increase or Decrease— in Latter Year.	1902.	1903.
	Bearing.	Not yet Bearing.	Total Area.	Bearing.	Not yet Bearing.	Total Area.		Grapes Gathered.	Grapes Gathered.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.		Lb.	Lb.
Roma	137	51	188	167	228	395	207	186,044	312,692
Brisbane	137	43	180	166	113	279	99	347,365	383,390
Toowoomba	116	7	123	188	21	209	86	301,719	313,231
South Brisbane	102	16	118	122	11	133	15	186,307	239,274
Gatton	85	11	96	100	17	117	21	182,012	163,444
Rockhampton	76	5	81	79	4	83	2	14,790	64,913
Rosewood	35	...	35	70	1	71	36	150,610	30,624
Logan	45	9	54	58	10	68	14	64,100	86,731
Maryborough	63	7	70	49	18	67	— 3	37,602	57,727
Gympie... ..	30	13	43	38	17	55	12	25,310	29,835
Allora	23	...	23	41	7	48	25	44,492	42,980
Warwick	55	4	59	40	7	47	— 12	188,726	44,236
Laidley... ..	18	7	25	29	9	38	13	51,470	31,960
Marburg	9	26	35	25	10	35	...	18,300	5,110
Highfields	30	1	31	29	5	34	3	46,610	53,454
All other Districts	341	57	398	285	105	390	— 8	438,947	502,919
	1,302	257	1,559	1,486	583	2,069	— 510	2,284,404	2,362,520

The largest increase was in Roma, where 207 acres were in 1903 added to vineyard area. This is the leading grape district of the State, and it is satisfactory to see such readiness to plant again after the vicissitudes of a series of unfavourable seasons. From 167 acres a return of 312,692 lb. of grapes was obtained, an average of 1,872 lb. to each acre. The next largest area was in Brisbane, where from 166 acres of bearing grapes 383,390 lb. were obtained, an average of 2,310 lb. Toowoomba, South Brisbane, and Gatton, the three districts with the next largest productions, gave average returns of 1,666 lb., 1,961 lb., and 1,634 lb. per acre. These averages do not compare favourably with those obtained in past years. The average return for each of the past five years in the four principal vine districts were as follows:—

Q b.

—	1899. Average per Acre	1900. Average per Acre.	1901. Average per Acre.	1902. Average per Acre.	1903. Average per Acre.
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
Roma... ..	327	535	1,936	1,358	1,872
Brisbane	2,249	2,976	3,002	2,536	2,310
Tcowoomba	3,378	3,807	4,213	2,601	1,666
South Brisbane	2,814	2,917	2,699	1,827	1,961
Total State	1,850	2,096	2,403	1,755	1,590

All four districts gave a better average than that for the whole State. In Roma the return for 1903 approximated very closely to that for 1901, the best year of the quinquennium.

WINE-MAKING.

The following table furnishes information as to wine made during the past five years:—

Q c.

Years.							Number of Makers.	Quantity of Wine Made.	Quantity of Brandy Distilled.
								Gallons.	Gallons.
1899							512	131,045	615
1900							556	132,489	1,055
1901							538	148,835	1,112
1902							391	100,852	2,199
1903							251	38,558	692

The output of wine for 1903 was but little more than one-third of that for 1902, or than one-fourth of that for 1901. There were 251 persons who made wine last year, against 391 in the previous year. The quantity of brandy distilled was 692 gallons. The following table gives the quantity of wine made in the eight principal districts:—

Q d.

1903.										
Petty Sessions District.								Number of Makers.	Quantity of Wine Made.	Quantity of Brandy Distilled.
									Gallons.	Gallons.
Toowoomba	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	84	9,670	...
Roma	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5,120	500
Brisbane	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	5,046	192
South Brisbane	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	3,554	...
Woodford	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3,000	...
Laidley	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	2,122	...
Highfields	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33	1,790	...
Logan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	1,451	...
All other Districts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62	6,805	...
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	251	38,558	692

In Toowoomba, 84 persons made 9,670 gallons of wine, or an average of rather more than 100 gallons each. In Roma, 5 persons made 5,120 gallons of wine and 500 gallons of brandy; and in Brisbane 10 makers produced 5,046 gallons of wine and 192 gallons of brandy. Throughout the State there were 4 people who made upwards of 1,000 gallons of wine each.

The importation of a certain quantity of choice wines, chiefly from Europe, is, of course, always to be looked for, but no sufficient reason would appear to offer as to why Queensland should fail to supply her own demand for the great bulk of the wines she uses. The total imports of wine for 1903 were 64,797 gallons, worth £27,212; of this the produce of other States of the Commonwealth amounted to £17,340.

BANANAS.

There was a considerably greater area under bananas in 1903 than in 1902—namely, 6,577 acres against 5,266 acres, an increase of 1,311 acres. There were 47,437 fewer bunches obtained from the greater area, however—namely, 1,112,578 bunches in 1903, and 1,160,015 bunches in the previous year; an average per acre of 169 bunches in the former and of 220 bunches in the latter year.

The following table compares the two seasons' crops in the chief banana districts:—

R.

District.	Area.		Production.		Increase, or Decrease —	
	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	Area.	Quantity.
	Acres.	Acres.	Bunches.	Bunches.	Acres.	Bunches.
Brisbane	214	253	22,922	22,438	39	484
Cairns	1,071	1,070	248,663	156,977	1	91,686
Cardwell	26	213	1,210	31,175	187	29,965
Cook	32	35	7,936	10,962	3	3,026
Logan	240	188	37,640	29,580	52	8,060
Maroochy	628	595	77,407	54,452	33	22,955
Maryborough	147	146	25,930	16,648	1	9,282
Mourilyan	2,478	3,553	694,405	746,945	1,075	52,540
Redcliffe	175	157	18,790	9,220	18	9,570
Somerset	126	129	8,390	9,595	3	1,205
All other Districts	129	238	16,722	24,586	109	7,864
Total	5,266	6,577	1,160,015	1,112,578	1,311	47,437

Mourilyan is the chief centre of banana cultivation, 3,553 acres, or 54 per cent. of the total area, and 746,945 bunches, or 67 per cent. of the total production being returned from that district, the average yield in this district being 210 bunches to each acre. Of the additional area in 1903, 1,075 acres, or 82 per cent., were planted at Mourilyan. Cairns was the district of next largest production, but the acreage there was practically the same in both years; from the 1,070 acres under crop there in 1903, 156,977 bunches of bananas were obtained, an average return to each acre of 147 bunches.

PINEAPPLES.

This fruit, which would appear to be less affected by drought than many plants, showed an increase both in acreage and production in 1903. Pineapples would appear to offer greater possibilities in the way of export than many other varieties of fruit. Packed under ordinary conditions, if care in gathering and casing be taken, it will carry for considerable distance, and yet arrive in good order. Beyond this, however, the results of experiments would appear to justify the belief that if carried in chilled chambers, under certain conditions, it is not improbable that the fruit may be successfully conveyed to Europe, and thus become another article of commercial export on a large scale. The experiments in this direction are being continued by officers of the Department of Agriculture.

The crop for 1902 and 1903 in the more important districts are compared in the following table:—

S.

District.	1902.		1903.		Increase or Decrease —	
	Acres.	Dozen.	Acres.	Dozen.	Acres.	Dozen.
Brisbane	478	132,465	601	155,370	123	22,905
Caboolture	19	2,480	35	5,794	16	3,314
Cairns	100	18,620	73	20,330	— 27	1,710
Cleveland	78	16,313	150	28,503	72	12,190
Cook	10	2,930	12	3,495	2	565
Logan	151	31,179	206	53,553	55	22,374
Maroochy	81	30,408	107	18,514	26	— 11,894
Maryborough	59	7,685	77	16,807	18	9,122
Mourilyan	10	2,000	13	610	3	— 1,390
Redcliffe	14	6,320	46	6,413	32	93
Rockhampton	27	1,985	28	6,567	1	4,582
South Brisbane	8	1,457	32	8,780	24	7,323
All other Districts	66	6,602	113	16,096	47	9,494
Total	1,101	260,444	1,493	340,832	392	80,388

There were 1,493 acres under pineapples in 1903, against 1,101 acres in the previous year, an increase of 392 acres. The production last year was 340,832 dozen, and in 1902 it was 260,444 dozen, an increase of 80,388 dozen. The average yield per acre each year was 228 dozen and 237 dozen respectively. Brisbane petty session district embraces nearly half the pineapple cultivation and production of the State; from the 601 acres planted there 155,370 dozen were marketed. A large export trade in pineapples with the Southern States obtains; its volume cannot, however, be accurately ascertained as the Customs figures do not discriminate between different varieties of green fruit exported.

ORANGES.

The stocktaking of the number of citrus fruit trees remaining after the drought resulted in the writing off as dead of a quantity of trees that it had been hoped would revive with the return of favourable weather.

The conditions respecting the cultivation of the orange during 1902 and 1903 are shown in the following table:—

T.

Petty Sessions District.	Area.		Bearing. 1903.	Not yet bearing 1903.	Production.		Increase, or Decrease —	
	1902.	1903.	Area.	Area.	1902.	1903.	Area.	Production.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Dozen.	Dozen.	Acres.	Dozen.
Bowen	171	131	61	70	83,926	29,299	— 40	— 54,627
Brisbane	48	60	47	13	19,070	8,392	12	— 10,678
Bundaberg	26	52	30	22	4,060	1,676	26	— 2,384
Caboolture	42	62	38	24	8,660	15,935	20	7,275
Cairns	86	74	52	22	38,000	48,810	— 12	10,810
Cardwell	137	161	65	96	83,110	110,370	24	27,260
Charters Towers	25	25	19	6	27,800	18,130	...	— 9,670
Childers	17	15	7	8	1,620	1,269	— 2	— 351
Cleveland	47	40	20	20	10,000	8,296	— 7	— 1,704
Cook	58	50	42	8	21,664	58,250	— 8	36,586
Douglas	109	67	54	13	55,154	88,813	— 42	33,659
Gatton	189	143	125	18	50,340	54,254	— 46	3,914
Gladstone	18	15	8	7	2,780	6,830	— 3	4,050
Gympie	92	77	46	31	39,886	13,825	— 15	— 26,061
Herberton	31	31	23	8	22,239	45,605	...	23,366
Hughenden	15	14	8	6	3,040	2,100	— 1	— 940
Logan	123	127	74	53	36,826	93,423	4	56,597
Maroochy	758	673	226	447	335,813	134,009	— 85	— 201,804
Maryborough	383	346	189	157	118,414	63,981	— 37	— 54,433
Nerang	158	135	66	69	100,212	104,018	— 23	3,806
Redcliffe	70	22	9	13	8,220	10,486	— 48	2,266
Rockhampton	122	90	59	31	19,636	20,384	— 32	748
South Brisbane	49	56	22	34	12,940	11,749	7	— 1,191
Tiaro	51	56	36	20	8,700	9,005	5	305
Toowoomba	38	56	41	15	760	29,111	18	28,351
All other Districts	278	358	252	106	78,372	162,494	80	84,122
Total	3,141	2,936	1,619	1,317	1,191,242	1,150,514	—205	— 40,728

From 3,141 acres in 1902 the area decreased to 2,936 acres in 1903, a decline of 205 acres. There was a decline in production also from 1,191,242 dozen in 1902 to 1,150,514 in the following year, a decrease of 40,728 dozen. The average yields per acre upon the areas in bearing for the two years were 571 dozen in 1902 and 711 dozen in 1903. The principal decreases in area were—85 acres Maroochy, 48 acres Redcliffe, 46 acres Gatton, 42 acres Douglas, 40 acres Bowen, 37 acres Maryborough, 32 acres Rockhampton, and 23 acres Nerang.

The average yield for 1903—namely, 711 dozen per acre—was better than for 1898—672 dozen; 1899, 611 dozen; and 1902, 571 dozen; it was below that for all other years of the preceding decade, whilst in 1894 and 1895 averages of 1,225 dozen and 1,050 dozen for the whole State were obtained. Last year the poor return obtained in the three districts with the largest areas—Maroochy, Maryborough, and Gatton—countervailing the good average returns obtained in other districts with small acreages. The following average yields per acre were recorded for the district named:—Herberton, 1,983 dozen; Cardwell, 1,698 dozen; Douglas, 1,645 dozen; Nerang, 1,576 dozen; Cook, 1,387 dozen; and Logan, 1,262 dozen. Except Nerang and Logan these are all in the Northern districts.

MANGOES.

There was an increased production but a reduced acreage under mangoes in 1903 as compared with 1902. Particulars are furnished in the following table:—

U.

District.	Area.		Bearing. 1903.	Not yet Bearing. 1903.	Production.		Increase, or Decrease — 1903.	
	1902.	1903.			1902.	1903.		
	Aeres.	Aeres.	Aeres.	Aeres.	Dozen.	Dozen.	Aeres.	Dozen.
Bowen	37	25	16	9	18,126	40,108	— 12	21,982
Brisbane	6	18	9	9	530	3,600	12	3,070
Bundaberg	20	21	17	4	2,420	1,833	1	587
Cairns	8	5	4	1	7,200	10,940	— 3	3,740
Cleveland	13	15	8	7	1,268	2,150	2	882
Cook	27	16	13	3	49,100	39,996	— 11	9,104
Ingham	10	3	3	...	26,000	15,100	— 7	10,900
Logan	29	38	31	7	7,317	17,552	9	10,235
Mackay	24	44	38	6	33,104	88,549	20	55,445
Maryborough	42	35	23	12	6,243	4,152	— 7	2,091
Mourilyan	12	15	14	1	8,600	2,652	3	5,948
Palmer	4	1	1	...	5,482	4,370	— 3	1,112
Rockhampton	48	29	22	7	3,960	12,597	— 19	8,637
Townsville	33	16	13	3	19,491	29,324	— 17	9,833
All other Districts	107	96	54	42	68,297	54,034	— 11	14,263
Total	420	377	266	111	257,138	326,957	— 43	69,819

Of the 420 acres in 1902, all but 36 acres were in bearing; but in 1903 the total area—377 acres—was less than the total area in 1902 by 43 acres. The bearing area in 1903 produced 326,957 dozen, whilst 257,138 dozen only were obtained in 1902, giving average yields of 1,229 dozen for 1903 and 670 dozen for 1902.

Mackay is the district with the largest, both total and productive, area—namely, 44 and 38 acres each respectively. The same district also provided by far the largest production, 88,549 dozen, or an average to each acre in bearing of 2,330 dozen. Bowen and Cook, from productive areas of 16 and 13 acres, returned fine averages to each acre of 2,507 dozen and 3,077 dozen respectively.

STRAWBERRIES.

This fruit, almost unknown in Queensland a few years ago, came much to the front prior to the extreme dry weather of 1902, and made a rapid recovery towards making up the deficient area of that year during the moister season of 1903, the acreage increasing by 40 per cent. and the production by twelve times over the figures for 1902. The following table furnishes particulars respecting this crop:—

V.

Petty Sessions District.	Area.		Production.		Increase or Decrease —	
	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1903.	1903.
	Aeres.	Aeres.	Quarts.	Quarts.	Aeres.	Quarts.
Bundaberg	3	4	100	3,450	1	3,350
Cleveland	26	20	6,180	38,540	— 6	32,360
Maroochy	34	39	6,174	63,230	5	57,056
South Brisbane ... ..	...	14	...	40,800	14	40,800
All other Districts	2	14	260	13,920	12	13,660
Total	65	91	12,714	159,940	26	147,226

Maturing in the winter and early spring of this State at a period of the year when the fruit is unobtainable in the southern States, it finds a ready sale at good prices for some considerable time in the earlier parts of the season. For reasons already stated, the actual extent of the export cannot be ascertained. The 1903 crop was of exceptionally good quality. Some of the local varieties of the fruit were stated by experts to possess an excellent flavour and to be equal to the best anywhere.

The 65 acres in 1902 had expanded to 91 in the following year, and 12,714 quarts to 159,940 quarts. The average returns to each acre were:—1902, 196 quarts; and 1903, 1,758 quarts. The average yields obtained in the three principal districts were:—South Brisbane, 2,914 quarts per acre; Cleveland, 1,927 quarts per acre; and Maroochy, 1,621 quarts per acre.

APPLES.

There was a substantial increase of 90 acres in the area under this fruit. No doubt the new method adopted of collecting fruit by the trees instead of the area has resulted in a closer collection, and would, in a small degree at least, contribute to this increase.

The following table furnishes particulars respecting the apple crop for the past two years:—

W.

District.	1902.	1903.	Increase, or Decrease — 1903.	Bearing. 1903.	Not yet Bearing. 1903.	1902.	1903.	Increase, or Decrease — 1903.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Herberton	6	7	1	3	4	220	163	— 57
Highfields	3	3	...	3	...	105	267	162
Killarney	2	9	7	6	3	...	311	311
Stanthorpe	294	328	34	198	130	7,697	12,693	4,996
Toowoomba	14	35	21	27	8	691	3,028	2,337
Warwick	11	8	— 3	7	1	122	373	251
All other Districts	23	53	30	35	18	330	1,560	1,230
	353	443	90	279	164	9,165	18,395	9,230

From 189 acres in 1902, 9,165 bushels of fruit were obtained, or an average yield of 48 bushels; in 1903, 279 acres returned 18,395 bushels, or an average of 66 bushels per acre.

Stanthorpe is the chief centre of production, 328 acres, or 74 per cent. of the total area of 443 acres, being returned therefrom.

There were 130 acres in Stanthorpe not yet come into bearing, pointing to a large extension in the future in the production of this fruit in that district. The average yields obtained last year in Stanthorpe and Toowoomba were 64 bushels and 112 bushels per acre.

OTHER FRUIT.

Table XV. in the Appendix contains full information respecting fruits not separately recorded in the general tables.

APRICOTS.—The returns last year gave 56 acres with a yield of 3,963 bushels. This fruit, in both the fresh and dried state, is imported to a considerable extent; it should afford a field for further production.

CHERRIES.—From 37 acres in 1903, 284 bushels were obtained. They are also imported to a considerable extent, but only in comparatively recent years. As, therefore, the taste of the general consumer has yet to be educated to the cherry, and up to the present the quality both produced and imported has not generally been of the best, the full demand for what is really one of the choicest of fruits has yet to be created.

COCOANUTS.—This fruit is chiefly grown on the Straits Islands, although some are obtained further south. If the plants are protected from depredation, the efforts of the Government to establish this fruit on most of the coastal islands would be successful and prove of great ultimate value. In 1903, from 714 acres, 9,040 dozen fruit were obtained.

PEACHES.—The new method of collecting by trees has had more effect on the return of peaches than on those of any other crop. The peach is largely grown in isolated patches of a few trees, and although no doubt some trees still have escaped collection, as it does not seem probable that 369 acres covers the whole of the peach cultivation, yet that area is in marked contrast to the 88 acres collected in 1902. From the 369 acres returned last year, 32,198 bushels of peaches were obtained.

PLUMS.—In 1903, from 215 acres, 13,703 bushels of fruit were marketed; the previous year's returns gave 113 acres and 1,775 bushels. Some attempt has been made locally to dry this fruit, if not to a sufficient extent to be suitable for export, at least enough to prolong its usefulness for culinary purposes. Should the experiment prove successful perhaps a further evaporation might result in another article of export developing from the agricultural products of the State.

CAPE GOOSEBERRIES.—In 1902, 76 acres under this fruit yielded 29,530 quarts; last year the area was extended to 213 acres and the production to 190,563 quarts.

The areas and yields of other fruits returned were:—Almonds, 4 acres, 35 bushels; custard apples, 27 acres, 1,428 bushels; figs, 4 acres, 152 bushels; lemons, 45 acres, 14,468 bushels; passion-fruit, 28 acres, 5,538 bushels; pawpaw, 9 acres, 2,057 dozen; peanuts, 33 acres, 57,354 lb.; pears, 41 acres, 2,158 bushels; persimmons, 15 acres, 564 bushels; and quinces, 13 acres, 1,267 bushels. Heavy plantings are now in progress in Stanthorpe of trees of the European varieties of fruit. Orchards in that district may in the next few years be expected to greatly increase the production of these classes of fruit.

OTHER VEGETABLES.

Table XV. in the Appendix gives full particulars as to the cultivation of vegetables that have not already had special mention. A summary of this information is furnished in the following statement:—

W a.

	1902.		1903.	
	Acres.	Produce.	Acres.	Produce.
Beans	58	4,872 bushels	55	5,335 bushels
Cabbages	286	100,920 dozen	556	212,538 dozen
Cucumbers	183	44,485 dozen	233	91,386 dozen
Onions	22	1,036 cwt.	147	10,026 cwt.
Peas	26	1,215 bushels	75	6,423 bushels
Tomatoes	234	22,649 bushels	343	36,873 bushels
Turnips	34	85 tons	289	2,763 tons
Yams	88	74 tons	96	82 tons

It is a matter for regret that greater attention is not devoted to legumens and the demand for them fostered, seeing that they possess such a high value as an article of diet.

MISCELLANEOUS CROPS.

Particulars as to crops returned, to which reference has not yet been made, will be found in Table XV. already referred to.

BROOM MILLET.—There was a great increase in both the area and the production of broom millet during 1903—namely, from 42 acres and 16,742 lb. in 1902 to 123 acres and 53,972 lb. in the following year. The production is practically confined to Toowoomba, Logan, and West Moreton. The following table compares this crop for the past two years:—

X.

Division and District.	BROOM.				Increase or Decrease —. 1903.	Increase or Decrease —. 1903.	AVERAGE YIELD PER ACRE.	
	1902.		1903.				1902.	1903.
	Acres.	Lb.	Acres.	Lb.	Acres.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
<i>Burnett and Wide Bay—</i>								
Gympie ... ..	...	...	2	1,344	2	1,344	...	672
<i>Moreton—</i>								
Beaudesert ... ..	...	...	7	2,640	7	2,640	...	377
Dugandan	13	3,250	14	5,020	1	1,770	250	359
Gatton	3	1,680	21	2,700	18	1,020	560	129
Ipswich ... ..	...	...	2	400	2	400	...	200
Laidley	15	4,480	14	6,772	— 1	2,292	299	484
Logan	11	7,332	25	12,208	14	4,876	667	488
<i>Downs—</i>								
Toowoomba ... ..	...	...	34	22,868	34	22,868	...	673
<i>Maranoa—</i>								
Roma ... ..	...	...	4	20	4	20	...	5
Total	42	16,742	123	53,972	81	37,230	399	439

The best average return was at Toowoomba, where 673 lb. were obtained on an average from each of the 34 acres under cultivation.

The consumption of broom millet, both of foreign and home production, for each of the past four years is shown in the following table:—

X a.

Year.	Total. lb.	Queensland Grown. lb.	Grown Elsewhere. lb.
1900	107,520	84,000	23,520
1901	139,440	34,720	104,720
1902	172,127	34,828	137,299
1903	76,352	32,564	43,788
Mean of 4 years ...	123,860	46,528	77,332

Taking the mean of the four years it is seen that the home production supplies only 38 per cent. of the total demand, so that local growers can considerably more than double their present output before supplying in full the local manufacturers.

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS CROPS.—In addition to broom millet there are other crops not hitherto cultivated, or to a small extent only, in the production of which a wide field is offered to the agriculturist.

THE PEANUT is grown to some extent as a fruit, but it may be made a most remunerative crop for the production of oil, which would meet with a ready sale in either the Australian or European markets. The best quality of nut is secured from light sandy loams, a class of soil which abounds, but is not suited to most crops. Stiffer and richer soils produce nuts of a darker colour which are not so marketable.

GINGER.—Although the soil and climate of Queensland are well adapted to the growth of this plant, its cultivation for export is perhaps hardly to be looked for in view of the labour conditions obtaining in the chief countries of production. The annual imports for home consumption amount to some 150,000 to 200,000 lb., and as there is a duty of 2d. per lb. on green ginger, and of 3d. per lb. on the preserved article, local requirements might at least be met.

CHICORY.—This root is in demand for mixture with coffee, and has been cultivated sufficiently to demonstrate the suitability of the soil and climate for its production.

COCOA OR CACAO.—The product of the bean of the chocolate-tree, which could be grown throughout the Northern coastal districts wherever the soil was deep and rich, a condition freely obtaining in those localities; indeed, as the climatic needs of this tree are approximately the same as the banana, its possible habitat might be considered to embrace an extended area of the State. Except to a slight extent experimentally its cultivation has not yet been attempted.

CASSAVA, which grows readily, might well invite the further efforts of the farmer, either for the production of tapioca as an article of diet or of starch for manufacturing purposes.

FIBRE PLANTS.—Of the many fibre plants which, in addition to cotton, might be considered as affording outlet for agricultural energy, there may be mentioned—flax, jute, hemp, kapok, and rhea or ramie, all of which can be grown in Queensland. The cultivation of flax has been most successfully pursued in Victoria. The heavy dews, accompanied by settled weather which prevail there, as in Queensland, admit of “dew setting” in place of steeping, in itself a great advantage. The modern methods of reaping instead of pulling and of leaving the crop to mature, thus securing the seed as well as the fibre, gives both economy of working and increased profit. As the kapok plant thrives in Java, there are no doubt many parts of Queensland where it could be successfully cultivated. Rich soil is not required, and it is fairly drought resistant.

THE RHEA (India), Ramie (Malaytia) (*Boehmeria nivea*) is considered to provide the most perfect of all vegetable fibres, which is composed of pure cellulose. It is in demand as a surgical bandage or wrapper, and cloth manufactured from it is highly recommended for the making of underwear, as it is stated to possess high hygienic value for such a purpose. The plant grows readily in Queensland.

RUBBER.—A variety of plants yielded rubber and some of them are indigenous to Queensland, but up to the present none have been proved to contain a quantity or quality sufficient to constitute the product of commercial value. The climate and soil of the north-eastern coast lands are well suited to the growth of the best varieties of rubber plants, which affords an opportunity for the introduction of a new and profitable undertaking.

SUNFLOWERS grow so freely as readily to become a weed, and yet are but little if at all cultivated with the objects of profit. The seed, besides being of great value for the feeding of poultry, is of value for oil extraction, and is worth from £10 to £12 per ton in London. The yield is from 40 to 60 bushels per acre, and the stalks make excellent fodder for cattle.

CHILLIES can be readily cultivated, and a small market exists with local pickle-makers, but the demand is limited. Dried for export, large quantities would find a ready sale at from 5d. to 6d. per lb.

HAY CROPS.—Information respecting the principal hay crops for 1903 is given in Appendix Table XVI. There were 78,393 acres under hay of all kinds, from which 136,117 tons were obtained, an average of 1.74 tons to each acre. Toowoomba was the district returning the largest area—namely, 14,036 acres, from which, however, only 17,929 tons of hay were obtained, an average of 1.28 tons to each acre. From the following districts good averages were returned:—Beaudesert, 3.83 tons; Laidley, 2.79 tons; Ipswich, 2.54 tons; Harrisville, 2.26 tons; and Rosewood, 2.01 tons.

The returns obtained from the principal varieties of hay crops for each of the past two years are compared in the following table:—

Y.

—							
				1902.	1903.	Increase or Decrease —	
				Acre.	Acre.	Acre.	Tons.
Wheat	...	...	...	867	6,189	5,322	1,049
Oats	...	...	...	2,619	19,523	16,904	3,915
Lucerne	...	...	...	15,213	49,501	34,288	16,146
Other	...	...	...	1,369	3,180	1,811	2,071
Total				20,068	78,393	58,325	23,181
							136,117
							112,936

There was a numerical increase of 58,325 acres in the area under hay in 1903 as compared with 1902, and in production of 112,936 tons of hay, or proportionate increases of not quite three times and approaching five times respectively. Lucerne comprised 63 per cent. of the total hay acreage, and the area was rather more than trebled in 1903, the produce being five times greater than in 1902.

GREEN FORAGE CROPS.

Appendix Table XVII. contains particulars with respect to these crops for 1903. The total area was 24,703 acres less in that year than in 1902. Lucerne being a stand-over crop is subject to being treated as hay land or to being cut for green forage. No doubt the reduced acreage under fodder is to some extent induced by areas of this crop thus utilised in 1902 being mown for hay in the following year, but the chief cause of the decline was the elimination from this class of crop of the large area of sugar-cane, which, from the special conditions obtaining in 1902, were thus disposed of instead of being put to their legitimate use.

ARTIFICIALLY SOWN PASTURE.

The fears that were expressed during the last years of the drought, to the effect that large areas of artificially sown pasture had been entirely destroyed, the grass roots having died right out, would appear to have been justified. The satisfactory rains which were experienced throughout a large portion

of 1903 would have revived any pasture not completely perished, and the decrease recorded in 1903, following on that of the previous year, would point to a permanent loss of acreage in this class of pasture. The areas returned as under sown grasses for pasture for the past two years are shown in the following table:—

Z.

District.								1902.	1903.	Increase. 1903.	Decrease. 1903.
Allora ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,022	2,064	...	5,958
Beaudesert ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	103	381	278	...
Cunnamulla ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,060	1,060	...	...
Crow's Nest ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	204	203	...
Dalby ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	131	250	119	...
Esk ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	731	488	...	243
Gatton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,100	393	...	707
Gympie ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	102	168	66	...
Herberton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,002	1,077	75	...
Highfields ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	174	170	...
Maroochy ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,393	1,499	106	...
Nanango ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55	446	391	...
Toowoomba ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,262	4,733	...	529
Warwick ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,829	1,139	...	2,690
All other Districts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,491	1,563	72	...
Total States								24,286	15,639	...	8,647

There were 34,679 acres returned in 1901, 24,286 acres in 1902, and 15,639 acres last year, giving decreases for the past two years of 10,393 acres and 8,647 acres respectively. Last year the chief decreases were upon the Darling Downs, Allora contributing 5,958 acres and Warwick 2,690 acres.

ENSILAGE.

This method of conserving fodder for future use does not appear to grow much in favour. During 1902 there was insufficient food grown to supply current requirements, so that little could be done in this direction. The more luxuriant growth of fodder plants during last year furnished material for conservation as ensilage if that method of storage had proved popular, but as will be seen in the following table the quantity placed in silos during 1903 was insignificant:—

Z a.

ENSILAGE.

District.								1902.	1903.	Increase. 1903.	Decrease. 1903.
								Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Allora ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80	80	...
Barcaldine ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70	12	...	58
Cairns ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	20	...
Crow's Nest ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	...
Dalby ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	100	98	...
Esk ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	13	...
Gin Gin ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...
Gympie ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150	150	...
Goodna ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	25	...
Harrisville ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	186	186	...
Ipswich ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	...
Maroochy ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	14	...	6
Mareeba ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...	...	100
Marburg ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	20	...
Nanango ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	142	142	...
Nerang ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	44	...
Rockhampton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	5
Springsure ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	20	...
Stanthorpe ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	20
Toowoomba ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	368	368	...
Townsville ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	25	...
Warwick ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	8	...
Total								217	1,273	1,026	...

There was an increase of 1,026 tons over the previous year's return, but as that was a year of such severe drought, a comparison with the figures of 1901 would better show the extent that ensilage is improving in public estimation. In that year 888 tons were so stored, so that the increase of 1903 over 1901 only amounts to less than 400 tons, a quantity unequal to what might be produced on a single holding. The greatest quantity recorded in any one district in 1903 was 368 tons in Toowoomba, followed by 186 tons in Harrisville, 150 tons in Gympie, 142 tons in Nerang, and 100 tons in Dalby. One firm at least is preparing to provide for a considerable quantity of silage, so that a marked improvement on the returns may be expected for the current year.

THORNHILL WEEDON, F.S.S.,
Government Statistician.

APPENDIX.

LIVE STOCK.

Table No. I.

RETURN of the NUMBER of HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, and PIGS, in the various PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS comprised in the SOUTHERN DIVISION of the STATE on the 31st DECEMBER, 1903.

Petty Sessions Districts.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Petty Sessions Districts.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Adavale	1,689	9,894	224,711	44	Laidley	3,052	9,167	58	3,990
Allora	5,562	11,556	55,389	3,671	Logan	2,489	8,658	74	1,823
Angathella	1,333	8,619	121,916	17	Marburg	1,803	7,996	...	3,866
Beaudesert	4,449	44,047	498	4,994	Maroochy	1,814	5,216	95	1,458
Biggenden	1,549	7,808	526	791	Maryborough	4,920	12,393	330	1,914
Bollon	2,473	12,334	257,345	102	Mitchell	3,646	28,634	74,099	558
Brisbane	7,633	10,105	250	2,170	Nanango	5,961	46,393	1,677	1,488
Bundaberg	7,109	30,135	516	4,198	Nerang	2,197	10,404	152	2,125
Caboolture	1,032	5,301	111	1,125	Redcliffe	1,814	9,164	14	2,248
Charleville	2,879	16,034	167,095	236	Roma	3,967	18,087	147,411	924
Childers	2,228	3,772	109	1,513	Rosewood	2,691	15,275	365	3,466
Cleveland	517	1,294	...	309	St. George	2,512	5,107	231,830	152
Condamine	1,045	8,234	10,511	220	South Brisbane	3,665	5,697	389	1,172
Crow's Nest	3,060	18,076	1,949	2,809	Southwood	309	2,866	18,559	61
Cunnamulla	2,514	7,196	636,131	261	Stanthorpe	2,163	15,194	51,109	397
Dalby	7,020	17,935	344,431	2,816	Surat	1,243	1,763	147,309	49
Diamantina (one-half)	1,293	12,633	212	...	Tambo	1,833	4,664	220,253	76
Dugandan	3,370	21,678	199	4,300	Taroom	1,874	20,369	13,219	47
Eidsvold	3,041	39,558	14,234	103	Tenningering	1,602	11,550	218	177
Esk	5,301	60,792	1,185	2,755	Texas	1,072	6,349	4,360	68
Eulo	656	3,268	78,524	86	Thargomindah	4,378	22,814	125,047	123
Gatton	5,140	26,926	1,031	6,207	Tiaro	4,577	27,219	287	2,061
Gayndah	4,809	55,303	1,267	516	Toowoomba	12,265	31,926	379,066	8,658
Gin Gin	3,055	24,870	405	1,091	Warwick	6,781	27,705	114,178	3,602
Goodna	550	1,351	40	399	Windorah (one-half)	1,555	6,081	93,462	35
Goondiwindi	1,893	8,813	153,640	198	Woodford	2,705	16,368	250	1,140
Gympie	6,254	37,645	1,876	2,859	Yeulba	737	3,420	1,901	177
Harrisville	2,325	15,600	201	2,929	Total for 1903 ...	184,032	950,562	3,854,433	94,830
Highfields	2,312	8,405	2,293	2,511	Total for 1902 ...	181,115	950,575	3,084,701	60,679
Hungerford	530	940	91,039	6	Increase in 1903 ...	2,917	...	769,732	34,151
Inglewood	1,628	22,106	60,416	551	Decrease in 1903 ...	...	13	...	...
Ipswich	4,193	13,993	379	2,379					
Killarney	1,965	3,862	292	809					

Table No. II.

RETURN of the NUMBER of HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, and PIGS, in the various PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS comprised in the CENTRAL DIVISION of the STATE on the 31st DECEMBER, 1903.

Petty Sessions Districts.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Petty Sessions Districts.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Alpha	1,705	6,190	4,162	310	Mount Morgan	3,596	5,276	171	164
Aramac	1,322	1,894	128,213	15	Muttaborra	3,345	11,206	466,850	48
Banana	2,865	16,178	11,720	20	Rockhampton	19,109	90,621	10,830	4,695
Barcaldine	2,978	1,741	400,010	282	St. Lawrence	3,390	23,673	398	266
Blackall	2,762	2,424	346,581	118	Springsure	3,683	19,585	77,949	474
Clermont	5,479	14,882	222,920	418	Windorah (one-half)	1,554	6,081	93,463	34
Diamantina (one-half)	1,293	12,633	211	...	Total for 1903 ...	79,733	302,311	2,878,189	9,348
Emerald	909	1,285	2,946	246	Total for 1902 ...	79,780	336,405	2,307,992	5,384
Gladstone	8,643	54,134	2,918	802	Increase for 1903 ...	...	...	570,197	3,964
Isisford	2,466	2,746	316,037	24	Decrease for 1903...	47	34,094	...	...
Longreach	5,352	6,735	786,527	147					
Mackay (Nebo collec- tions, say six-elevenths)	9,282	25,027	6,283	1,285					

Table No. III.

RETURN of the NUMBER of HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, and PIGS, in the various PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS comprised in the NORTHERN DIVISION of the STATE on the 31st DECEMBER, 1903.

Petty Sessions Districts.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Petty Sessions Districts.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Ayr	4,333	25,781	441	1,287	Mourilyan	1,123	971	32	434
Boulia	5,877	57,837	110,137	14	Norman	6,506	236,503	246	286
Bowen	10,378	69,242	3,884	677	Palmer	3,405	12,321	...	93
Burke	6,920	138,921	1,138	80	Ravenswood	2,451	6,871	200	376
Cairns	2,320	2,916	1,877	873	Somerset	143	651	...	286
Camooweal	2,257	31,930	12,001	2	Thornborough	3,315	34,312	...	52
Cape River	4,467	27,149	162	142	Townsville	6,568	15,956	664	2,218
Cardwell	1,461	8,876	...	82	Winton	6,472	18,496	686,645	93
Charters Towers	13,829	71,662	1,944	1,149	Total for 1903	138,219	1,228,844	1,659,422	13,375
Cloncurry	8,499	99,887	254,156	66	Total for 1902	138,227	1,256,491	1,821,292	11,139
Cook	3,870	29,538	...	251	Increase in 1903 ... ..	...	...	...	2,236
Croydon	2,979	34,558	...	391	Decrease in 1903	8	27,647	161,870	...
Douglas	1,015	548	...	312	Total in State in 1903	401,984	2,481,717	8,392,044	117,553
Etheridge	7,543	94,937	...	205	Total in State in 1902	399,122	2,543,471	7,213,985	77,202
Herberton	7,944	47,943	102	721	Increase in 1903	2,862	...	1,178,059	40,351
Hughenden	10,285	120,123	580,283	328	Decrease in 1903 ... ..	...	61,754	...	...
Ingham	5,354	18,556	180	1,759					
Mackay (less Nebo collections, say five-elevenths)	7,735	20,855	5,237	1,070					
Mareeba	1,170	1,504	93	128					

Table No. IV.

RETURN of the NUMBER of CATTLE and SHEEP in the various PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS comprised in the SOUTHERN DIVISION of the STATE for the Years 1902 and 1903, together with the INCREASE or DECREASE in the latter Year.

Petty Sessions Districts.	Cattle.				Sheep.			
	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
Adavale	7,495	9,894	2,399	...	170,929	224,711	53,782	...
Allora	12,236	11,556	...	680	40,193	55,389	15,196	...
Angathella	8,227	8,619	392	...	108,306	121,916	13,610	...
Beaudesert	37,417	44,047	6,630	...	418	498	80	...
Biggenden	7,884	7,808	...	76	384	526	142	...
Bollon	16,607	12,334	...	4,273	240,667	257,345	16,678	...
Brisbane	10,455	10,105	...	350	653	250	...	403
Bundaberg	29,195	30,135	940	...	500	516	16	...
Caboolture	6,110	5,301	...	809	115	111	...	4
Charleville	14,301	16,034	1,733	...	125,532	167,095	41,563	...
Childers	3,575	3,772	197	...	1,260	109	...	1,151
Cleveland	1,455	1,294	...	161	23	...	...	23
Condamine	12,710	8,234	...	4,476	3,222	10,511	7,289	...
Crow's Nest	17,526	18,076	550	...	1,986	1,949	...	37
Cunnamulla	8,746	7,196	...	1,550	491,626	636,131	144,505	...
Dalby	19,785	17,935	...	1,850	237,812	344,431	106,619	...
Diamantina (one-half)	11,612	12,633	1,021	...	43,902	212	...	43,690
Dugandan	20,051	21,678	1,627	...	240	199	...	41
Eidsvold	44,779	39,558	...	5,221	12,088	14,234	2,146	...
Esk	58,487	60,792	2,305	...	980	1,185	205	...
Eulo	1,380	3,268	1,888	...	60,737	78,524	17,787	...
Gatton	21,001	26,926	5,925	...	275	1,031	756	...
Gayndah	75,347	55,303	...	20,044	487	1,267	780	...
Gin Gin	27,147	24,870	...	2,277	427	405	...	22
Goodna	1,271	1,351	80	...	20	40	20	...
Goondiwindi	4,608	8,813	4,205	...	31,768	153,640	121,872	...
Gympie	37,610	37,645	35	...	5,689	1,876	...	3,813
Harrisville	14,142	15,600	1,458	...	403	201	...	202
Highfields	7,874	8,405	531	...	1,801	2,293	492	...
Hungerford	842	940	98	...	75,822	91,039	15,217	...
Inglewood	10,764	22,106	11,342	...	64,275	60,416	...	3,859
Ipswich	13,081	13,993	912	...	234	379	145	...
Killarney	4,390	3,862	...	528	1,251	292	...	959
Laidley	10,605	9,167	...	1,438	35	58	23	...
Logan	8,102	8,658	556	...	53	74	21	...
Marburg	6,972	7,996	1,024	...	...	...	...	...
Maroochy	5,987	5,216	...	771	80	95	15	...
Maryborough	13,067	12,393	...	674	232	330	98	...
Mitchell	31,786	28,634	...	3,152	65,424	74,099	8,675	...
Nanango	45,164	46,393	1,229	...	15,167	1,677	...	13,490
Nerang	11,222	10,404	...	818	100	152	52	...
Redcliffe	8,676	9,164	488	...	20	14	...	6
Roma	14,891	18,087	3,196	...	88,123	147,411	59,288	...
Rosewood	12,013	15,275	3,262	...	519	365	...	154
St. George	3,901	5,107	1,206	...	289,121	231,830	...	57,291
South Brisbane	5,377	5,697	320	...	1,225	389	...	836
Southwood	3,829	2,866	...	963	10,797	18,559	7,762	...
Stanthorpe	17,048	15,194	...	1,854	54,134	51,109	...	3,025
Surat	6,054	1,763	...	4,291	63,701	147,309	83,608	...
Tambo	7,045	4,664	...	2,381	174,062	220,253	46,191	...
Taroom	23,227	20,369	...	2,858	9,058	13,219	4,161	...
Tenningering	10,724	11,550	826	...	121	218	97	...
Texas	5,988	6,349	361	...	3,728	4,360	632	...
Thargomindah	20,152	22,814	2,662	...	104,427	125,047	20,620	...
Tiaro	27,534	27,219	...	315	9,728	287	...	9,441
Toowoomba	27,340	31,926	4,586	...	258,166	379,066	120,900	...
Warwick	27,504	27,705	201	...	103,643	114,178	10,535	...
Windsor (one-half)	8,315	6,081	...	2,234	108,252	93,462	...	14,790
Woodford	16,905	16,368	...	537	154	250	96	...
Yeulba	3,037	3,420	383	...	606	1,901	1,295	...
Totals	950,575	950,562	64,568	64,581	3,084,701	3,854,433	922,969	153,237

Table No. V.

RETURN of the NUMBER of CATTLE and SHEEP in the various PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS comprised in the CENTRAL DIVISION of the STATE for the Years 1902 and 1903, together with the INCREASE or DECREASE in the latter Year.

Petty Sessions Districts.	Cattle.				Sheep.			
	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
Alpha	13,325	6,190	...	7,135	14,068	4,162	...	9,906
Aramac	2,101	1,894	...	207	71,483	128,213	56,730	...
Banana	21,919	16,178	...	5,741	10,040	11,720	1,680	...
Barcaldine	1,228	1,741	513	...	318,025	400,010	81,985	...
Blackall	2,586	2,424	...	162	273,756	346,581	72,825	...
Clermont	15,914	14,882	...	1,032	112,754	222,920	110,166	...
Diamantina (one-half)	11,611	12,633	1,022	...	43,902	211	...	43,691
Emerald	1,878	1,285	...	593	402	2,946	2,544	...
Gladstone	57,878	54,134	...	3,744	18,286	2,918	...	15,368
Isisford	3,341	2,746	...	595	301,915	316,037	14,122	...
Longreach	5,925	6,735	810	...	662,578	786,527	123,949	...
Mackay (Nebo collections, say six-elevenths)	31,004	25,027	...	5,977	6,281	6,283	2	...
Mount Morgan	6,243	5,276	...	967	14,783	171	...	14,612
Muttaborra	6,334	11,206	4,872	...	284,821	466,850	182,029	...
Rockhampton	92,032	90,621	...	1,411	50,855	10,830	...	40,025
St. Lawrence	38,937	23,673	...	15,264	318	398	80	...
Springsure	15,834	19,585	3,751	...	15,473	77,949	62,476	...
Windorah (one-half)	8,315	6,081	...	2,234	108,252	93,463	...	14,789
Totals	336,405	302,311	10,968	45,062	2,307,992	2,878,189	708,588	138,391

Table No. VI.

RETURN of the NUMBER of CATTLE and SHEEP in the various PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS comprising the NORTHERN DIVISION of the STATE for the Years 1902 and 1903, together with the INCREASE or DECREASE in the latter Year.

Petty Sessions Districts.	Cattle.				Sheep.			
	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ayr	22,614	25,781	3,167	...	14,267	441	...	13,826
Boulia	65,591	57,837	...	7,754	101,818	110,137	8,319	...
Bowen	72,817	69,242	...	3,575	33,730	3,884	...	29,846
Burke	148,588	138,921	...	9,667	32,358	1,138	...	31,220
Cairns	3,636	2,916	...	770	3,320	1,877	...	1,443
Camooweal	31,910	31,930	20	...	24,804	12,001	...	12,803
Cape River	32,347	27,149	...	5,198	236	162	...	74
Cardwell	11,233	8,876	...	2,357	...	...	...	...
Charters Towers	66,032	71,662	5,630	...	749	1,944	1,195	...
Cloncurry	113,168	99,887	...	13,281	389,929	254,156	...	135,773
Cook	27,796	29,538	1,742	...	...	...	...	...
Croydon	32,621	34,558	1,937	...	...	...	...	...
Douglas	662	548	...	114	...	...	...	...
Etheridge	85,558	94,937	9,379	...	...	...	...	...
Herberton	42,371	47,943	5,572	...	3,694	102	...	3,592
Hughenden	123,339	120,123	...	3,216	685,115	580,283	...	104,832
Ingham	19,585	18,556	...	1,029	1,109	180	...	929
Mackay (less Nebo collections, say five-elevenths)	25,836	20,858	...	4,981	5,234	5,237	3	...
Mareeba	1,518	1,504	...	14	780	93	...	687
Mourilyan	793	971	178	...	21	32	11	...
Norman	241,910	236,503	...	5,407	79,794	246	...	79,548
Palmer	12,678	12,321	...	357	...	...	...	...
Ravenswood	7,833	6,871	...	962	45	200	155	...
Somerset	525	651	126	...	...	...	...	...
Thornborough	32,398	34,312	1,914	...	...	...	...	...
Townsville	13,809	15,956	2,147	...	51	664	613	...
Winton	19,273	18,496	...	777	444,238	686,645	242,407	...
Totals	1,256,491	1,228,844	31,812	59,459	1,821,292	1,659,422	252,703	414,573

Table No. VII.

RETURN OF LIVE STOCK SLAUGHTERED for PRESERVATION as Food, or FREEZING, or for TALLOW, in the STATE, during the YEARS 1894-1903, with the Quantity of MEAT, TALLOW, LARD, &c., produced.

Year.					Number of Establishments.	Average Number of Hands Employed.	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED.						† Hogs.	MEAT PRESERVED OR FROZEN.								Extract and Essence of Meat Produced.	Quantity of Tallow Produced.	Quantity of Lard Produced.	Total Value of all Product shown here.
							Cattle.			Sheep.				Beef.			Mutton.		† Bacon and Hams.	† Pork, Salt and Fresh.					
							For Freezing.	For Preserving.	For Boiling Down.	For Freezing.	For Preserv- ing.	For Boiling Down.		Frozen.	Fresh Preserved.	Salted.	Frozen.	Preserved.							
1894	...	...	...	...	31	1,127	48,558	77,916	67,611	57,787	394,405	417,328	No. 48,539	lb. 33,305,023	lb. 16,957,502	lb. 682,955	lb. 2,749,042	lb. 5,862,373	lb. 4,695,280	...	lb. 168,805	tons. 15,683	lb. 84,070	£ ...
1895	...	...	...	...	39	2,848	80,487	104,969	98,374	75,600	385,060	743,257	58,870	50,349,956	9,523,164	326,232	3,064,458	5,088,502	4,941,512	925,025	511,533	21,263	159,093	760,175
1896	...	...	...	...	35	2,838	76,483	77,719	87,562	100,550	262,151	430,696	67,034	50,245,213	19,014,648	182,586	4,571,086	2,914,902	5,108,726	1,220,034	517,011	12,736	203,972	980,772
1897	...	...	...	...	38	2,604	111,267	62,342	85,754	70,865	259,536	615,454	76,719	62,764,267	34,931,056	106,499	2,952,290	1,970,959	6,103,485	1,191,345	463,386	13,651	167,743	785,539
1898	...	...	...	...	46	2,876	112,940	65,966	147,528	61,258	69,006	146,845	85,510	64,676,868	23,209,919	1,972,000	2,355,030	967,363	6,973,007	878,901	1,593,285	13,609	216,194	548,651
1899	...	...	...	...	47	3,156	117,668	140,815	127,983	119,964	144,345	215,509	101,704	78,173,578	46,031,300	1,192,152	4,966,390	2,616,318	7,147,760	975,302	1,925,193	19,165	222,460	1,101,004
1900	...	...	...	...	33	2,540	150,057	108,975	21,022	50,719	75,887	25,049	90,608	91,006,191	33,111,290	1,153,285	2,285,758	1,379,785	7,685,446	696,062	759,193	9,657	381,695	1,068,623
1901	...	...	...	...	26	1,879	140,011	57,447	2,285	64,121	67,692	301	104,017	90,053,829	29,732,204	173,716	3,337,332	2,827,247	7,064,714	662,500	333,014	8,231	405,181	1,729,082
1902	...	...	...	...	22	1,548	132,166	51,205	2,471	117,729	189,025	2,251	88,416	85,743,229	22,543,999	479,138	5,225,727	*5,374,696	6,512,952	841,673	192,781	5,237	197,990	1,835,665
1903	{ Metropolitan Bowen Charters Towers Esk Gladstone Goodna Harrisville Mackay Rockhampton Townsville Warwick }	5 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1	16	999	108,343	16,149	922	102,007	13,309	110	54,712	66,483,364	9,773,112	73,924	4,906,991	498,416	4,145,900	940,489	100,720	3,661	273,257	1,437,701			

* Includes 3,970 lb. salted.

† Pigs killed by farmers, and pork and bacon made therefrom, are included in this table.

Table No. VIII.

OTHER PRODUCTS OF MEAT PRESERVING, &C., ESTABLISHMENTS in the STATE—RETURN for NINE YEARS.

Year.	No.	Manure.		Edible Fats.		Hides.		Skins.		Bones.		Horns and Hoofs.	Hair.		Oils, &c.		All Other Products.*	Total Value.
		Tons.	£	lb.	£	Number.	£	Number.	£	Tons.	£	£	lb.	£	Gallons.	£		£
1895	36	4,505	11,124	560,219	6,599	280,781	161,795	1,170,559	160,545	1,332	5,001	3,905	59,434	1,979	28,454	2,661	...	353,609
1896	35	7,321	13,627	597,000	1,950	239,305	141,559	770,482	119,370	683	2,808	2,288	39,220	1,238	23,782	2,350	...	285,190
1897	38	10,738	24,654	673,385	8,455	259,160	161,979	928,330	125,043	954	3,696	3,307	76,539	1,848	18,478	1,819	...	330,801
1898	46	15,072	36,133	1,083,523	14,189	325,933	227,175	275,824	39,736	991	4,685	5,615	72,358	1,871	27,678	2,899	...	332,303
1899	47	17,347	56,446	985,121	13,163	395,929	337,931	524,215	97,016	1,265	6,363	10,819	92,487	2,359	26,000	2,831	...	526,928
1900	27	9,519	31,518	1,362,786	19,792	265,051	235,239	191,445	28,850	655	3,739	12,900	39,089	2,001	17,590	2,022	9,073	345,134
1901	18	4,937	21,999	1,382,080	21,244	182,708	180,673	187,126	14,847	522	2,873	5,321	34,670	1,820	16,916	2,218	8,668	259,663
1902	18	3,654	14,274	1,191,572	21,572	178,090	170,874	275,176	26,311	578	3,824	3,649	16,310	860	18,769	2,283	6,613	243,647
1903	12	2,215	9,973	1,033,491	16,807	130,639	135,518	150,900	21,466	625	3,660	4,667	17,819	797	10,540	1,296	15,019	209,123

* Not compiled prior to 1900.

Table No. IX.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of CATTLE, SHEEP, &C., SLAUGHTERED (under the supervision of Inspectors of Slaughter-Houses only) for CONSUMPTION as FOOD in EACH of the DIVISIONS of the STATE, together with the AVERAGE DEAD WEIGHT of each ANIMAL and the ESTIMATED QUANTITY CONSUMED PER CAPITA, for 1903 (exclusive of Factories engaged in Slaughtering for Preservation).

DIVISION.					*POPULATION.	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED.					AVERAGE DEAD WEIGHT.					CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA.					
					Estimated for the Year.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Calves.	Lambs.	Pigs.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Calves.	Lambs.	Pigs.	Beef.	Mutton.	Veal.	Lamb.	Pork.	Total.
Southern					322,273	78,502	225,773	4,016	2,022	15,073	585	48	53	37	90	143	34	0·66	0·23	4	181·89
Central					38,212	10,870	35,285	327	161	2,825	574	42	106	25	63	163	39	0·90	0·11	4½	207·51
Northern					110,148	42,865	74,552	429	447	7,746	564	39	90	28	73	219	26	0·35	0·11	5	250·46
Total					470,633	132,237	335,610	4,772	2,630	25,644	577	46	60	34	82	163	33	0·61	0·19	4½	201·30

* The figures quoted in this column refer to the estimated number of consumers returned by inspectors of slaughter-houses.

Table No. X.

RETURN showing the TOTAL EXTENT of LAND under CULTIVATION, and the AREA under each DESCRIPTION of CROP, in the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the STATE of QUEENSLAND during the YEAR 1903.

Petty Sessions Districts.	Total Extent of Land under permanent Pasture with Artificially Sown Grasses.	Total Extent of Land under Cultivation.	Land in Fallow and Totally Unproductive.	Total Extent of Land under Crop.	GRAIN CROPS.							POTATOES.		Pumpkins and Melons.	Cotton.	Sugar-cane.	Arrowroot.	COFFEE.		Hay (All Kinds).	Green Fodder.	VINES.		Bananas.	Pineapples.	Oranges.	Other Crops.	Gardens and Orchards.	
					Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.		Maize.	Rye.	Rice.	English.	Sweet.					Bearing.	Not yet Bearing.			Bearing.	Not yet Bearing.						
							Malting.	Other.																					
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	
Moreton District.																													
Beaudesert	381	10,246	3,359	6,887	...	...	...	3	3,390	...	...	151	33	1,342	...	...	...	...	...	1,124	668	3	2	...	...	26	76	69
Brisbane	1	5,328	209	5,119	...	...	...	...	634	1	...	287	210	292	...	...	...	...	...	768	870	166	113	253	601	60	402	462
Caboolture	...	1,817	295	1,522	...	...	...	...	895	...	...	82	57	47	...	...	...	...	...	69	109	4	1	3	35	62	51	106
Cleveland	...	625	22	603	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	8	27	17	...	...	1	...	...	31	54	15	15	25	150	40	203	14
Crow's Nest	204	10,677	830	9,847	1,058	17	255	68	6,263	17	...	413	1	638	...	...	...	...	...	389	639	5	1	...	...	9	42	32
Dugandan	77	12,444	1,317	11,127	16	...	...	10	7,364	8	...	176	9	1,325	...	...	...	...	2	1,109	912	14	4	13	2	12	63	88
Esk	488	3,675	...	3,675	...	33	2	6	2,359	...	...	78	50	284	...	...	...	...	...	644	144	7	...	...	...	19	43	6
Gatton	393	30,335	731	29,604	21	1	27	2	12,021	57	...	1,078	65	3,790	...	...	...	...	...	9,657	2,455	100	17	...	...	143	139	31
Goodna	...	512	...	512	...	...	...	...	160	...	...	19	3	36	...	...	...	...	...	218	57	6	2	...	...	7	1	3
Harrisville	34	10,462	3,216	7,246	6	5	...	20	3,160	1	...	48	5	378	...	...	...	...	...	2,757	732	13	4	...	1	15	38	63
Ipswich	4	6,067	1,641	4,426	...	...	...	2	1,302	...	...	183	22	293	...	...	...	...	...	1,620	851	16	10	...	2	17	81	27
Laidley	51	17,870	878	16,992	2	...	59	14	9,176	4	...	407	48	1,522	...	...	...	...	...	5,200	372	29	9	...	1	18	94	37
Logan	...	6,327	203	6,124	...	...	...	...	2,004	...	9	283	261	100	...	2,119	69	...	...	213	253	58	10	188	206	127	198	26
Marburg	18	12,121	4,993	7,128	...	...	...	...	3,687	1	...	89	21	1,269	...	27	...	1	...	380	1,470	25	10	8	1	11	92	36
Maroochy	1,499	5,827	337	5,490	1,083	53	50	54	...	2,154	17	...	36	11	75	168	8	3	595	107	673	282	121
Nerang	736	4,948	119	4,829	...	1	...	...	2,471	...	...	349	47	249	...	629	229	...	...	344	289	7	1	26	1	135	31	20
Redcliffe	...	4,926	321	4,605	...	...	...	...	2,522	...	...	330	118	174	...	...	...	...	...	648	513	21	2	157	46	22	41	11
Rosewood	...	6,582	77	6,505	...	...	...	...	2,505	2	...	79	12	621	...	...	1	...	...	1,729	1,368	70	1	...	...	2	74	41
South Brisbane	12	2,364	101	2,263	...	...	...	...	181	...	...	93	134	16	...	...	...	...	...	997	379	122	11	...	32	56	93	149
Woodford	367	917	98	819	...	...	...	...	426	...	...	53	18	76	...	...	4	...	...	118	40	16	...	...	...	11	17	40
Total Moreton	4,265	154,070	18,747	135,323	1,103	57	343	125	61,607	91	9	4,259	1,191	12,523	...	4,929	321	1	36	13	28,090	12,343	705	216	1,268	1,185	1,465	2,061	1,382
Downs District.																													
Allora	2,064	59,688	4,329	55,359	29,583	427	4,003	1,378	8,682	14	...	55	...	834	...	...	...	...	...	9,010	1,126	41	7	...	...	14	51	134
Condamine	...	293	...	293	199	...	...	...	18	...	...	3	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	56	...	9	1	...	...	...	3	...
Dalby	250	17,249	814	16,435	12,037	127	524	746	816	2	...	34	...	41	...	...	...	...	...	1,481	551	6	4	...	...	3	41	22
Goondiwindi	...	782	7	775	200	3	...	6	...	1	...	5	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	527	...	1	1	...	...	3	10	15
Highfields	174	16,725	784	15,941	5,066	86	1,030	128	6,780	56	...	169	...	176	...	...	...	...	...	1,784	549	29	5	...	...	7	48	28
Inglewood	11	1,421	65	1,356	857	9	...	26	105	...	...	9	...	48	...	...	7	...	...	224	45	3	1	...	...	3	11	8
Killarney	100	18,233	2,644	15,589	8,396	72	1,085	216	1,622	6	...	60	...	81	...	...	...	...	...	875	3,004	4	1	...	...	2	135	30
Southwood	...	25	...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stanthorpe	...	1,180	1	1,179	47	14	...	...	100	...	...	57	...	21	...	...	...	...	...	245	23	24	20	...	...	...	570	58
Texas	...	1,232	36	1,196	121	4	...	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	764	...	...	286	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Toowoomba	4,733	78,879	8,600	70,279	29,833	1,521	6,522	2,074	7,945	124	...	139	5	1,536	...	...	...	...	...	14,036	5,692	188	21	...	...	56	276	399
Warwick	1,139	46,701	7,143	39,558	20,776	429	3,147	1,384	3,440	13	...	145	...	181	...	...	...	...	...	8,732	864	40	7	...	...	2	295	105
Total Downs	8,471	242,408	24,423	217,985	107,115	2,692	16,311	5,975	29,508	216	...	676	5	2,925	771	37,280	11,856	345	69	90	1,442	709
Maranoa District.																													
Bollon	...	65	...	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Mitchell	...	5,759	96	5,663	5,245	6	...	...	8	...	...	1	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	378	...	17	...	...	...	...	...	3
Roma	...	25,118	1,169	23,949	22,123	...	24	8	307	...	...	21	...	38	...	...	...	...	...	948	9	167	228	...	...	8	22	45
St. George	...	602	...	602	112	2	...	...	32	...	...	3	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	397	5	2	2	...	...	4	3	35
Surat	...	506	...	506	360	...	36	8	13	...	...	2	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	83	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yeulba	...	670	...	670	605	...	...	...	33	...	...	4	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	14	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Maranoa	...	32,720	1,265	31,455	28,445	8	60	16	393	...	...	32	2	60	...	...	...	...	...	1,868	27	186	230	...	...	12	25	91

Table No. X.—continued.

Petty Sessions Districts.	Total Extent of Land under permanent Pasture with Artificially Sown Grasses.	Total Extent of Land under Cultivation.	Land in Fallow and Totally Unproductive.	Total Extent of Land under Crop.	GRAIN CROPS.										POTATOES.				COFFEE.				VINES.											
					Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.		Maize.	Rye.	Rice.	English.	Sweet.	Pumpkins and Melons.	Cotton.	Sugar-cane.	Arrowroot.	Tobacco.	Bearing.	Not yet Bearing.	Hay (All Kinds).	Green Fodder.	Bearing.	Not yet Bearing.	Bananas.	Pineapples.	Oranges.	Other Crops.	Gardens and Orchards.					
							Malting.	Other.																										
Rockingham District.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
	Calms ...	26	15,118	331	14,787	...	...	...	2,489	...	16	8	68	7	...	10,567	...	...	144	...	4	167	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Cardwell ...	...	775	16	759	...	1	...	317	...	...	1	36	4	...	6,574	...	...	16	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Douglas ...	...	7,217	40	7,177	...	...	...	426	...	...	8	27	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Dundas ...	...	6,793	28	5,764	...	...	...	5,033	...	...	59	61	134	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Herberton ...	1,077	13,374	540	12,834	...	...	...	235	...	...	21	130	...	...	12,375	...	...	...	...	260	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ingham ...	...	316	49	267	...	...	...	201	...	...	9	15	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Mareeba ...	...	12,781	550	12,231	...	...	...	630	...	...	...	70	...	...	7,796	40	...	30	...	3	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Mourlyan ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Rockingham	1,109	55,374	1,555	53,819	...	1	...	9,331	...	24	104	397	147	...	37,312	41	...	206	8	274	257	1	1	4,880	94	370	119	222	...	...	...	...
Edgecumbe District.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
	Ayr ...	...	7,547	160	7,387	...	...	...	1,468	...	...	32	166	130	...	5,481	...	...	...	...	22	53	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Bowen ...	...	3,882	...	3,882	...	...	...	424	...	...	64	46	44	...	3,047	...	...	...	...	4	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Mackay ...	43	25,869	261	25,608	...	...	...	1,281	...	3	69	255	24	...	23,473	...	...	60	...	76	195	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Townsville ...	...	569	...	589	...	2	...	57	...	...	142	32	101	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Edgecumbe	73	37,867	421	37,446	...	...	...	3,230	...	3	307	499	289	...	32,001	...	...	50	11	110	269	10	...	24	19	169	227	216	...	...	...	...	...
Port Curtis District.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
	Gladstone ...	...	986	55	881	...	...	...	539	...	...	57	12	76	...	...	...	...	...	...	116	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Mount Morgan ...	...	121	1	120	...	1	...	6	...	...	3	2	12	...	...	...	...	...	8	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Rockhampton ...	...	6,638	706	5,932	...	3	...	1,135	...	...	197	134	331	2	...	...	...	3	14	3,384	248	79	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Port Curtis...	...	7,695	762	6,933	...	3	1	1,680	...	2	257	148	419	2	49	...	...	...	14	3,508	258	82	4	42	37	106	117	201	...	...	...	...	...
Burnett and Wide Bay District.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
	Biggenden ...	10	3,299	178	3,121	...	6	...	2,339	...	...	119	17	326	...	...	...	...	...	...	205	37	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Bundaberg ...	...	32,338	3,063	29,275	...	...	...	8,035	...	...	141	110	434	...	18,680	...	...	...	...	937	402	24	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Childers ...	21	16,532	918	15,614	...	...	...	2,106	...	...	31	114	119	...	12,587	...	...	...	...	384	163	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Edsvald ...	9	540	129	411	...	...	...	197	...	...	11	2	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	142	11	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Gayndah ...	2	1,037	43	994	...	167	...	...	...	...	18	10	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	311	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Gin Gin ...	...	7,696	1,265	6,431	...	...	...	2,405	...	...	68	48	122	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	246	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Gympie ...	...	5,157	290	4,867	...	...	...	1,928	...	...	179	49	677	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	311	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Maryborough ...	...	4,133	269	3,864	...	...	...	685	...	...	126	132	68	...	...	...	...	...	...	857	136	38	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Nannago ...	...	9,352	454	8,898	...	...	...	5,592	...	...	76	8	425	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,045	120	49	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tennamerang ...	...	120	28	92	...	...	...	22	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Taro ...	...	5,114	515	4,599	...	...	...	1,508	...	...	241	18	122	...	1,592	...	...	...	...	786	164	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total Burnett and Wide Bay District	656	85,318	7,152	78,166	1,334	49	36	25,719	8	...	1,013	519	2,335	...	37,225	...	...	6	30	6,226	1,448	138	53	152	126	571	292	845	...	...	...	...	...

Table No. X.—continued.

[illegible]

Table No. XI.

RETURN showing the GROSS PRODUCE of PRINCIPAL CROPS Raised in the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the STATE OF QUEENSLAND during the YEAR ended 31st DECEMBER, 1903.

PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS.	QUANTITY OF PRODUCE.																				
	GRAIN CROPS.							POTATOES.		Pumpkins and Melons.	Cotton.	SUGAR-CANE.		Arrowroot.	Tobacco (Cured Leaf).	Coffee.	Hay (All Kinds).	VINES.	Bananas.	Pineapples.	Oranges.
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.		Maize.	Rye.	Rice.	English.	Sweet.			Sugar-Cane Crushed.	Sugar-Cane Crushed.					Grapes Gathered.			
			Malting.	Other.																	
<i>Moreton District.</i>	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Lb.	Acres.	Tons.	Tons.	Cwt.	Lb.	Tons.	Lb.	Bunches.	Dozens.	Dozens.
Beaudesert ... ..	...	...	...	50	53,943	...	...	662	229	4,258	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,304	18,454	...	...	19,811
Brisbane ... ..	...	...	...	...	13,791	16	...	687	1,044	1,133	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,910	383,390	22,438	155,370	8,392
Caboolture ... ..	...	...	...	...	17,436	...	...	248	395	246	...	...	...	9	...	...	140	12,207	300	5,794	15,935
Cleveland ... ..	...	...	...	...	59	...	...	17	93	49	...	...	...	...	...	...	96	23,006	2,710	28,503	8,296
Crow's Nest	17,285	416	6,804	1,801	60,854	440	...	914	5	2,489	...	...	...	...	...	...	730	8,670	...	...	1,640
Dugandan	113	...	...	110	99,986	101	...	448	20	7,514	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,074	19,967	630	95	3,144
Esk ... ..	...	109	...	124	44,750	...	...	176	118	957	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,320	16,224	...	...	17,295
Gatton	102	10	460	32	169,008	1,074	...	3,641	230	12,623	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,616	163,444	...	...	54,254
Goodna ... ..	...	...	...	...	1,745	...	...	39	4	88	...	...	...	...	...	...	439	4,200	...	...	220
Harrisville	43	15	...	335	31,368	12	...	115	10	1,823	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,221	4,696	...	35	718
Ipswich ... ..	...	...	...	75	12,479	...	...	469	67	1,269	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,117	12,532	...	55	2,337
Laidley	8	...	1,263	115	98,824	190	...	1,172	125	5,073	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,497	31,960	...	...	89
Logan ... ..	...	...	...	...	44,660	...	203	560	1,139	527	...	833	16,768	622	...	...	594	86,731	29,580	53,553	93,423
Marburg ... ..	...	...	...	...	15,311	20	...	190	66	2,826	...	...	...	...	5	...	877	5,110	2,400	100	181
Maroochy ... ..	...	...	...	...	21,735	...	...	132	223	160	...	...	957	17,621	184	...	223	16,696	54,452	18,514	134,009
Nerang ... ..	...	4	...	...	54,007	...	...	934	210	952	...	...	502	7,286	3,095	...	514	24,475	30	120	104,018
Redcliffe ... ..	...	...	...	...	37,996	...	...	850	823	929	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,707	38,035	9,220	6,413	10,486
Rosewood ... ..	...	...	...	...	16,422	24	...	214	45	1,878	...	...	...	2	...	...	3,477	30,624	...	...	635
South Brisbane ... ..	...	...	...	...	4,271	...	...	203	971	46	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,103	239,274	...	8,780	11,749
Woodford ... ..	...	...	...	...	7,201	...	...	140	94	352	...	...	...	20	...	...	240	28,510	...	...	7,550
Total Moreton ...	17,551	554	8,577	2,642	805,840	1,877	203	11,811	5,911	45,192	...	2,292	41,675	3,932	5	5,562	62,199	1,168,205	121,760	277,332	494,932
<i>Downs District.</i>																					
Allora	574,976	11,589	99,566	38,796	54,154	212	...	125	...	1,158	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,967	42,980	...	...	6,200
Condamine	4,639	...	...	...	410	...	...	30	...	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	174	2,936	...	...	...
Dalby	194,857	3,504	9,745	11,238	12,528	60	...	71	...	73	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,655	11,178	...	...	155
Goondiwindi	1,974	120	...	144	...	12	...	11	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,105	11,332	...	...	1,423
Highfields	95,154	1,872	26,251	3,247	50,275	1,023	...	509	...	504	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,993	53,454	...	...	13,097
Inglewood	8,461	116	...	246	3,520	...	...	31	...	77	...	...	...	...	25	...	505	32,624	...	...	2,320
Killarney	186,199	2,260	24,856	4,646	8,456	173	...	178	...	293	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,075	11,528	...	...	248
Southwood ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stanthorpe	1,175	360	...	...	1,727	...	...	110	...	80	...	...	...	...	...	...	55	...	...	...	...
Texas	1,537	100	...	223	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	489	53,392	...	...	...
Toowoomba	502,286	37,348	151,647	40,386	77,049	2,249	...	336	14	4,034	...	...	...	...	...	...	491	...	...	...	...
Warwick	448,630	11,925	60,056	26,262	11,070	710	...	318	...	355	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,929	313,231	...	...	29,111
Total Downs ...	2,019,888	69,194	372,121	125,188	219,189	4,439	...	1,719	14	6,599	...	...	...	...	612	...	51,201	576,891	...	...	53,704
<i>Maranoa District.</i>																					
Bollon ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43	...	...	...	...
Mitchell	79,596	80	...	...	168	...	...	2	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	741	4,800	...	...	...
Roma	283,690	...	184	200	3,850	...	...	40	...	90	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,870	312,692	...	...	5,400
St. George	2,310	30	...	...	600	...	...	10	7	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	838	9,000	...	...	500
Surat	4,234	...	324	122	215	...	...	5	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	156	...	...	...	...
Yeulba	7,054	...	...	...	950	...	...	10	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	39	...	...	...	...
Total Maranoa ...	376,884	110	508	322	5,783	...	...	69	7	136	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,687	326,492	...	...	5,900

Table No. XI.—continued.

PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS.	QUANTITY OF PRODUCE.																				
	GRAIN CROPS.							POTATOES.		Pumpkins and Melons.	Cotton.	SUGAR-CANE.		Arrowroot.	Tobacco (Cured Leaf).	Coffee.	Hay (All Kinds).	VINES.	Bananas.	Pineapples.	Oranges.
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.		Maize.	Rye.	Rice.	English.	Sweet.			Sugar- Cane Crushed.	Sugar- Cane Crushed.					Grapes Gathered.			
			Malting.	Other.																		Lb.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Lb.	Acres.	Tons.	Tons.	Cwt.	Lb.	Tons.	Lb.	Bunches.	Dozens.	Dozens.
<i>Rockingham District.</i>																					
Cairns ... ..		...	...	...	65,259	...	444	13	421	13	...	6,629	98,913	...	...	41,848	9	...	156,977	20,330	48,810
Cardwell		4	...	...	3,085	...	...	13	377	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31,175	185	110,370
Douglas ... ..		...	...	...	10,802	...	201	1	116	5	...	4,328	70,273	...	...	8,404	...	...	7,950	350	88,813
Herberton ... ..		...	...	...	182,899	...	...	102	231	350	...	...	...	1	...	2,460	598	6,060	2,155	509	45,605
Ingham ... ..		...	...	...	3,540	...	...	56	796	...	...	8,012	109,880	...	...	...	...	...	930	...	3,600
Mareeba ... ..		...	...	...	6,306	...	...	19	59	1	...	...	...	...	...	5,020	10	...	...	...	706
Mourilyan ... ..		...	...	...	13,950	...	...	...	392	...	...	5,765	90,306	800	...	15,680	3	...	746,945	610	3,021
Total Rockingham ...	...	4	...	...	285,841	...	645	204	2,392	378	...	24,734	369,372	801	...	73,412	620	6,060	946,132	21,984	300,925
<i>Edgecumbe District.</i>																					
Ayr ... ..		...	...	...	23,620	...	...	84	893	568	...	2,963	62,211	...	...	...	43	...	440	2,650	...
Bowen ... ..		...	...	...	8,442	...	...	129	145	144	...	1,865	25,899	...	...	...	4	...	...	210	29,299
Mackay ... ..		...	...	...	17,864	...	320	141	977	86	...	13,245	170,386	...	...	2,780	86	11,156	592	1,083	40,279
Townsville	22	...	...	...	1,226	...	...	413	159	358	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	1,150	24	222	632
Total Edgecumbe ...	22	...	...	...	51,152	...	320	767	2,174	1,156	...	18,073	258,496	...	...	2,780	151	12,306	1,056	4,165	70,210
<i>Port Curtis District.</i>																					
Gladstone		15	...	...	20,506	...	...	138	46	261	...	...	...	...	...	...	236	5,896	...	812	6,830
Mount Morgan ... ..		...	...	...	140	...	...	5	5	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	37	410	...	100	520
Rockhampton	51	...	...	20	22,240	...	...	414	539	928	1,500	...	...	...	...	500	5,469	64,913	766	6,567	20,384
Total Port Curtis ...	51	15	...	20	42,886	...	...	557	590	1,199	1,500	...	...	...	...	500	5,742	71,219	766	7,479	27,734
<i>Burnett and Wide Bay District.</i>																					
Biggenden	57	...	60	...	53,518	...	...	222	72	549	...	...	...	...	...	...	355	4,984	...	...	657
Bundaberg ... ..	...	...	...	...	195,808	26	...	265	337	1,343	...	5,395	81,796	...	...	...	2,017	38,758	872	3,824	1,676
Childers ... ..	...	...	...	...	34,834	...	...	60	400	245	...	8,256	60,757	...	...	...	488	5,550	522	415	1,269
Eidsvold ... ..	...	...	...	...	2,411	...	...	36	7	80	...	...	...	...	...	...	291	7,822	...	...	1,138
Gayndah	3,184	...	...	210	13,886	25	...	54	27	84	...	...	...	...	...	...	365	680	...	...	3,400
Gin Gin ... ..	...	...	...	...	41,064	...	...	166	204	313	...	337	1,013	...	...	...	611	1,066	...	52	100
Gympie	20	...	...	28	43,492	...	...	499	192	2,791	...	40	579	...	...	...	1,933	29,835	1,500	50	13,825
Maryborough ... ..	...	...	...	...	15,764	...	...	215	349	183	...	336	2,323	...	...	8	1,551	57,727	16,648	16,807	63,981
Nanango	18,619	836	816	...	47,033	115	...	171	25	1,123	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,908	10,199	...	...	3,004
Tenningering	1	...	...	...	690	...	...	5	20	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	37	...	...	...	118
Tiaro ... ..	...	...	...	25	32,614	...	...	670	53	397	...	912	7,864	...	...	...	1,720	6,734	100	1,313	9,005
Total Burnett and Wide Bay	21,881	836	876	263	481,114	166	...	2,363	1,686	7,131	...	15,276	154,332	...	...	8	11,276	163,355	19,642	22,461	98,173

Table No. XI.—continued.

PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS.	QUANTITY OF PRODUCE.																				
	GRAIN CROPS.							POTATOES.		Pumpkins and Melons.	Cotton.	SUGAR-CANE.		Arrowroot.	Tobacco (Cured Leaf).	Coffee.	Hay (All Kinds).	VINES.	Bananas.	Pineapples.	Oranges.
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.		Maize.	Rye.	Rice.	English.	Sweet.			Sugar- Cane Crushed.	Sugar- Cane Crushed.					Grapes Gathered.			
			Malting.	Other.																	
<i>Other Districts.</i>	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Lb.	Acres.	Tons.	Tons.	Cwt.	Lb.	Tons.	Lb.	Bunches.	Dozens.	Dozens.
Adavale	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	330
Alpha	644	...	...	2	1	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Aramac	20	...	...	1	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Augathella
Banana	90	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Barcaldine	330	...	...	...	90	...	...	11	8	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,115
Blackall
Boulia
Burke	6	10	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	310	365
Camooeweal
Cape River	140	...	...	2	6	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,850	...
Charleville	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Charters Towers	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,130
Clermont	557	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,020
Cloncurry	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cook	6,396	...	154	...	241	31	...	...	...	2	...	1,370	...	...	10,962	3,495	58,250
Croydon	99	...	...	1	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	780	140	4,260
Cunnamulla	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diamantina
Emerald	6	...	...	...	630	...	...	5	8	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Etheridge	9,899	...	...	20	55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75	25	675
Eulo
Hughenden	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,100
Hungerford	250	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Isisford	14	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Longreach	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Muttaburra	9	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	600
Norman	700	...	...	2	3	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	450
Palmer	2,382	...	...	...	57	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ravenswood	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
St. Lawrence	872	...	...	35	35	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Somerset	55	...	...	...	95	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Springsure	42	...	...	...	2,788	...	...	3	10	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tambo
Taroom	144	...	...	40	330	...	...	16	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,400
Thargomindah	7	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Thornborough	5,852	...	...	13	73	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	430
Windorah	973
Winton	3	4	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	770
Total Other Districts ...	522	...	...	40	31,818	...	154	159	638	311	...	...	...	2	...	1,370	1,241	37,992	23,222	7,411	98,936
Grand Total, 1903 ...	2,436,799	70,713	382,082	128,475	1,923,623	6,482	1,322	17,649	13,412	62,102	1,500	60,375	823,875	4,735	617	83,632	136,117	2,362,520	1,112,578	340,832	1,150,514
" " 1902 ...	6,165	520	1,749	1,846	1,033,329	238	1,093	3,257	7,165	6,087	1,600	59,102	641,927	1,461	1,818	113,301	23,181	2,284,404	1,160,015	260,444	1,191,242
Increase, 1903 ...	2,430,634	70,193	380,333	126,629	890,294	6,244	229	14,392	6,247	56,015	...	1,273	181,948	3,274	...	...	112,936	78,116	...	80,388	...
Decrease, 1903	100	...	...	...	1,201	29,669	...	...	47,437	...	40,728

Table No. XII.
Showing the Total Extent of Land under Cultivation, and the Area under each Description of Crop in Queensland—Return for Ten Years.

Year.	Acres.	Total Extent of Land under Cultivation.	Acres.	Land in Fallow.	Acres.	Total Extent of Land under Crop.	AREA UNDER EACH DESCRIPTION OF CROP.																															
							GRAIN CROPS.					POTATOES.				HAY CROPS.					VINES.																	
							Wheat.	Barley.			Maize.	Rye.	Rice.	English.	Sweet.	Cotton.	Sugar-Cane.	Arrowroot.	Tobacco.	Coffee.	Pumpkins and Melons.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Lucerne.	Panicleum.	Other.	Lucerne and Other Green Forage.	VINES.								
								Oats.	Malt-Ing.	Other.																				For Wine-making.	For Table Use.	Not yet Bearing.	Bananas.	Pineapples.	Oranges.	Other Crops.	Gardens and Orchards.	
1894	284,552		9,570	274,982	28,997	1,477	...	1,418	103,671	283	650	10,523	2,775	100	Acres.	71,818	282	915	...	...	4,643	10,993	195	319	10,228	1,490	160	12,029	605	1,062	320	3,075	819	1,672	1,434	3,029	Acres.
1886	299,278		13,969	285,319	27,090	922	...	721	100,481	202	716	9,240	2,738	494	Acres.	77,247	194	1,061	60	...	1,344	9,763	221	410	14,315	2,411	145	19,552	1,782*	239	3,916	847	1,990	4,121	3,189	Acres.		
1886	336,775		14,097	322,678	35,831	1,881	...	1,122	115,715	345	600	7,672	3,131	280	Acres.	83,093	309	994	138	...	1,845	11,565	282	427	17,892	3,673	80	19,509	1,842	178	4,477	823	1,791	3,875	3,308	Acres.		
1897	386,259		14,402	371,857	39,875	1,834	...	2,077	109,721	470	445	8,197	3,581	48	Acres.	98,641	391	756	311	...	5,898	14,002	291	702	23,362	3,791	174	19,903	1,881	286	4,828	909	2,196	3,410	3,878	Acres.		
1898	409,287		14,033	393,254	46,219	2,271	...	2,991	102,835	299	863	7,961	3,686	1	Acres.	61,742	465	617	432	...	2,664	9,358	182	483	20,095	2,411	100	26,980	1,727	283	5,264	1,130	2,272	1,615	3,601	3,761	Acres.	
1899	455,645		24,899	430,746	52,527	714	6,011	1,463	110,489	198	319	10,766	3,919	...	Acres.	111,012	431	745	495	...	26,047	10,997	620	486	19,091	1,628	70	35,514	1,746	257	5,802	994	2,354	2,514	3,587	3,151	Acres.	
1900	480,372		22,975	457,397	79,304	385	6,302	1,231	127,974	151	271	11,060	3,914	...	Acres.	108,535	391	665	537	...	8,019	14,292	461	594	20,843	1,996	33	41,445	1,734	285	6,215	939	2,882	3,181	4,344	3,987	3,151	Acres.
1901	507,317		23,857	483,460	87,232	1,535	6,818	4,957	116,983	246	305	9,948	3,890	...	Acres.	112,031	399	788	547	...	17,167	17,167	310	502	34,177	1,165	16	39,793	1,691	299	6,772	1,020	3,083	4,344	3,987	3,151	Acres.	
1901	478,121		202,738	275,383	1,880	78	163	267	89,923	22	28	2,899	1,847	8	Acres.	85,338	296	722	396	...	19,523	2,619	50	122	15,213	1,142	55	51,279	1,302	257	5,266	1,101	3,141	3,004	5,201	4,430	Acres.	
1902	621,683		55,104	566,589	138,096	2,808	16,750	6,131	133,099	315	49	6,732	3,054	2	Acres.	111,516	363	772	394	...	6,189	19,523	660	599	49,501	1,748	173	26,576	1,486	583	6,577	1,488	2,936	1,434	3,029	4,430	Acres.	

Table No. XIV.
AVERAGE PRODUCE PER ACRE OF PRINCIPAL CROPS IN QUEENSLAND—RETURN FOR TEN YEARS.

Year.	Wheat (Grain).	Oats (Grain).	BARLEY.		Maize.	Rye (Grain).	Rice.	English Potatoes.	Sweet Potatoes.	Cotton.	Sugar (on Acres Crushed).	Arrowroot (Commercial).	Tobacco (Cured Leaf).	COFFEE.		Pumpkins and Melons.	Wheat (Hay).	Oats (Hay).	Barley (Hay).	Rye (Hay).	Lucerne (Hay).	Panicum (Hay).	Other (Hay).	Wine.	Grapes for Table Use.	Bananas.	Pineapples.	Oranges.
			Malting.	Other.										On Pro- ductive Area.	Tons.													
1894 ...	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.	Lb.	Tons.	Lb.	Cwt.	Lb.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Gallons.	Lb.	Doz.	Doz.	Doz.
1894 ...	18·80	20·62	...	26·67	25·90	18·55	38·26	2·68	5·12	†548	1·84	1,896	10·46	...	...	1·37	1·85	1·72	1·93	2·47	1·76	1·44	291·73	2,976	2,903	838	1,225
												(Tubers.) Tons.												‡ Grapes.				
																								Lb.				
1895 ...	4·56	11·81	...	10·76	23·80	20·64	26·88	2·06	5·20	†545	1·55	6·65	7·08	§234	...	1·06	1·28	1·68	2·30	2·15	1·93	1·56	2,387		3,795	445	1,050	
1896 ...	16·78	17·10	...	17·24	26·49	21·59	34·21	2·40	4·57	†504	1·51	8·42	8·68	373	...	0·92	1·54	1·78	1·68	2·34	1·91	1·70	2,780		3,810	381	753	
1897 ...	16·86	17·17	...	24·00	25·55	17·72	29·19	2·26	4·88	†416	1·50	7·39	7·55	453	...	1·33	1·77	1·88	1·98	2·26	1·78	1·64	2,564		3,416	387	741	
1898 ...	13·13	14·93	13·78	8·02	21·90	12·96	44·19	2·06	5·43	†50	1·99	13·44	5·31	284	3·07	0·91	1·73	1·64	1·80	2·30	1·70	2·11	2,383		8,843	410	672	
1899 ...	11·70	15·00	16·64	12·59	17·79	12·08	29·08	2·11	5·08	...	1·55 (Sugar- cane.)	10·83	8·79	470	3·74	1·30	2·02	1·20	1·89	2·23	1·74	3·07	1,850		6,257	404	611	
1900 ...	15·06	20·40	17·12	15·62	19·20	12·77	25·35	1·81	5·04	...	11·68	11·02	6·06	361	3·07	1·16	1·75	1·48	1·84	2·19	1·75	2·33	2,096		Bunches. 373	452	998	
1901 ...	19·40	27·50	28·39	16·84	21·96	20·33	25·47	2·25	5·05	...	15·10	10·20	7·61	352	3·90	1·55	2·12	1·94	1·94	1·96	1·80	4·00	2,403		401	353	969	
1902 ...	3·28	6·67	10·73	6·91	11·49	10·82	28·76	1·12	3·88	†200	10·86	4·94	2·52	361	2·37	1·21	1·49	1·20	1·70	1·06	1·50	1·62	1,755		220	237	571	
1903 ...	17·65	25·18	22·81	20·95	14·45	26·98	20·58	2·62	4·39	†750	13·65	13·04	0·80	265	3·30	1·72	1·69	1·94	2·26	1·75	1·69	1·62	1,590		169	228	711	

† Unginned.

‡ The manufacture of wine by the purchasers of the grapes and not the growers has now attained such proportions that the returns can no longer be kept distinct.

§ On total area.

Showing the Area and Produce Obtained during the Year 1903 from CERTAIN OTHER CROPS, details of which are not included in the GENERAL TABLE.

Table No. XV.

LOCALITY.	OTHER FRUITS.															OTHER VEGETABLES.										OTHER MISCELLANEOUS CROPS.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
	Almonds.	Apples.	Apricots.	Cherries.	Cocoanuts.	Custard Apples.	Figs.	Gooseberries (Cape).	Lemons.	Mangoes.	Passion Fruit.	Pawpaw.	Peaches.	Pea Nuts.	Pears.	Persimmons.	Plums.	Quinces.	Strawberries.	Beans.	Cabbages.	Cucumbers.	Onions.	Peas.	Tomatoes.	Turnips.	Yams.	Broom Millet.	Canary Seed.	Cassava, Manioc, or Tapioca.	Chicory.	Cow Pea.	Kaffir Corn.	Mangel-Wurzel.	Prairie Grass Seed.	Rosellas.	Sisal Hemp and Ramie.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
Rockingham	Acres.	7	2	15	40	...	1	2	15	15	1	1	2</

Table No. XVI.

RETURN showing the TOTAL EXTENT of LAND CULTIVATED for HAY, together with the YIELD of HAY, and the average yield per ACRE in each of the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the STATE of QUEENSLAND, during the YEAR 1903.

HAY.														
PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS.					Wheat.		Oats.		Lucerne.		Other.		Total.	
					Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.
Allora					737	1,001	1,886	2,394	6,363	7,545	24	27	9,010	10,967
Beaudesert					6	15	318	1,020	766	3,168	34	101	1,124	4,304
Dugandan					31	61	289	672	671	2,121	118	220	1,109	3,074
Gatton					414	707	855	1,396	7,938	11,557	450	956	9,657	14,616
Gympie					7	12	976	969	284	741	125	211	1,392	1,933
Harrisville					23	48	864	1,684	1,592	4,004	278	485	2,757	6,221
Highfields					299	417	331	612	1,057	1,745	97	219	1,784	2,993
Ipswich					10	22	427	780	1,125	3,231	58	84	1,620	4,117
Laidley					76	145	454	820	4,529	13,304	141	228	5,200	14,497
Nanango					146	251	411	805	371	694	117	158	1,045	1,908
Rockhampton					31	82	2,486	3,806	476	913	391	668	3,384	5,469
Rosewood					15	29	405	741	1,194	2,549	115	158	1,729	3,477
Toowoomba					578	984	2,762	4,031	10,524	12,594	172	320	14,036	17,929
Warwick					113	192	852	1,766	7,699	10,678	68	127	8,732	12,763
All other Districts					3,703	6,699	6,207	11,414	4,912	11,820	992	1,916	15,814	31,849
Grand Total for { 1903					6,189	10,665	19,523	32,910	49,501	86,664	3,180	5,878	78,393	136,117
					867	1,049	2,619	3,915	15,213	16,146	1,369	2,071	20,068	23,181
Increase in 1903					5,322	9,616	16,904	28,995	34,288	70,518	1,811	3,807	58,325	112,936
Decrease in 1903 ... ..					..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Average yield per acre					1.72		1.69		1.75		2.10		1.74	

Table No. XVII.

RETURN showing the TOTAL EXTENT of LAND CULTIVATED for GREEN CROPS in each of the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the STATE of QUEENSLAND during the YEAR 1903.

PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS.					GREEN CROPS.				
					Wheat.	Oats.	Lucerne.	Other.	Total of all Kinds.
					Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Allora ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	23	162	939	1,126
Gatton ... ..	...	...	...	...	124	66	743	1,522	2,455
Killarney ... ..	...	...	...	...	31	9	222	2,742	3,004
Marburg ... ..	...	...	...	...	75	204	99	1,092	1,470
Rosewood ... ..	...	...	...	...	10	172	427	759	1,368
Toowoomba ... ..	...	...	...	...	13	149	3,239	2,291	5,692
All other Districts ... ..	...	...	...	...	288	1,274	2,373	7,526	11,461
Grand Total for { 1903					543	1,897	7,265	16,871	26,576
					607	1,462	8,710	40,500	51,279
Increase in 1903 ...					64	435	1,445	23,629	24,703
Decrease in 1903 ...					...	...	...	...	...

Table No. XVIII.
AVERAGE YIELD PER ACRE OF CROPS.

Division.								GRAIN CROPS.							POTATOES.		Sugar-cane (to Acres Crushed)	Cotton.	Arrow-root (Tuber).	Tobacco (Dried Leaf.)	Coffee.	Pump-kins and Melons.	Hay of all Kinds.	Grapes.	Bananas.	Pine-apples.	Oranges.	
								Wheat.	Oats.	Barley, Malting.	Barley, Other.	Maize.	Rice.	Rye.	English.	Sweet.												
								Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Lb.	Tons.	Cwt.	Lb.	Tons.	Tons.	Lb.	Bunches.	Dozen.	Dozen.	
Rockhampton	4'00	...	...	...	30'63	26'87	...	1'96	6'03	14'49	...	19'54	...	356	2'57	2'26	1,231	1,939	234	1,332
Edgecumbe	11'00	...	...	...	...	15'84	106'67	...	2'50	4'36	14'30	...	...	...	56	3'87	1'37	6,060	44	219	747
Port Curtis	17'00	15'00	...	10'00	...	25'53	...	...	2'17	3'99	...	750	...	...	167	2'86	1'64	869	18	202	408
Burnett and Wide Bay	16'40	17'06	24'33	23'91	...	18'71	...	20'75	2'33	3'25	10'10	...	...	...	1	3'05	1'81	1,184	108	178	304
Moreton	15'91	9'72	25'01	21'14	...	13'08	22'56	20'63	2'77	4'96	18'18	...	12'25	5'00	155	3'61	2'21	1,657	96	234	688
Downs	18'86	25'70	22'81	20'95	...	7'43	...	20'55	2'54	2'80	...	...	...	0'79	...	2'26	1'37	1,672	...	...	802
Maranoa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13'25	13'75	8'47	20'12	...	14'72	...	...	2'16	3'50	...	...	...	...	2'27	1'97	1,755	...	...	590	
Other Districts	5'55	...	...	20'00	...	19'51	11'85	...	1'89	2'18	...	...	2'00	...	81	2'49	1'20	2,000	128	232	883
TOTAL AVERAGE YIELD FOR 1903								17'65	25'18	22'81	20'95	14'45	26'98	20'58	2'62	4'39	13'65	750	13'04	0'80	265	3'30	1'74	1,590	169	228	711	
" " " 1902								3'28	6'67	10'73	6'91	11'49	28'76	10'82	1'12	3'88	10'86	200	4'94	2'52	361	2'37	1'16	1,755	220	237	571	

Price 1s. 8d.]

By Authority: GEORGE ARTHUR VAUGHAN, Government Printer, William street, Brisbane.